February 20th—26th, 1986, No. 7

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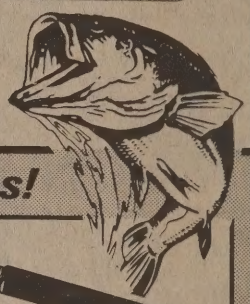

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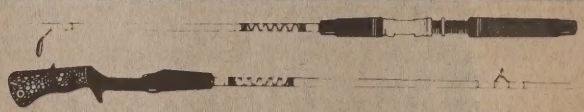

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 21, Number 7 February 20th, 1986

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ABOUT THE COVER:

The thrill of a leaping mako is captured during a battle aboard the Montauk charter boat, Mistress Too. For a look at how last season's offshore fishing developed, see Al Ristori's 1985 Review on page 26.

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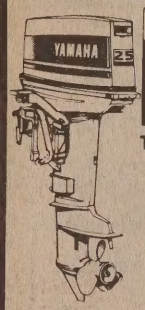

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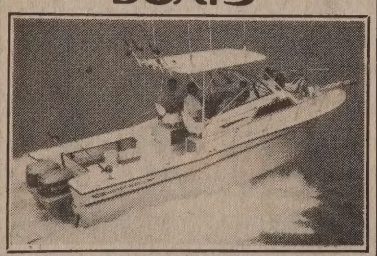

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INCREASE YOUR HUNTING AND FISHING SKILLS AT WORLD FISHING AND OUTDOOR EXPO

Many of the world's host famous anglers and outdoorsmen will be at the ninth annual World Fishing and Outdoor Exposition in the Rockland Community College field house, Suffern, New York, February 26 through March 2. The EXPO is much more than the largest display of the newest fishing tackle, hunting gear and guide services ever to hit this area; it's also an enjoyable "school" where you can attend seminars with top experts in every aspect of hunting and fishing.

Highlighting the program are Lefty Kreh, internationally known author, lecturer and casting instructor; Bill Dance, often called "the Arnold Palmer of bass fishing"; and Jerry McKinnis, now in his 20th year of hosting the nationally syndicated popular television show, "The Fishin' Hole."

Some of the subjects to be covered in clinics and seminars during EXPO are fly fishing in the West with Greg Lilly; fly casting by Lou Tabory, Lefty Kreh and Jerry Seim; where to find good fishing close to home, by Jim Caposella; using sonar, CRT, LCG and graph recorders with Craig Gaunya; and how to rattle up the big bucks, by Peter Fiduccia.

There's a program on deep sea fishing by Capt. Greg Dubrule; bass fishing with national champion Bill Dance; springtime fishing on the Hudson with Tom Lake; fishing for Lake Ontario trout and salmon by Capt. Bill Kelley, and information on 150 fly fishing trips by Lefty Kreh.

Famed rod maker Walton Powell will discuss bamboo fly rod building; and for turkey hunters, there's a seminar by noted outdoorsman and champion turkey hunter Dick Kirby; Bob Rochetta, who set a world's record for striped bass, will talk about striper fishing; and John Punola will discuss Delaware River shad fishing.

Pete Barrett, Fisherman magazine editor, will present the latest on shark fishing; while Russ Wilson will cover fishing for bluefish and other inshore species. And there's even a seminar on training your pointer or setter, with noted dog trainer Lance Casper.

All in all, it's a super program and a nice way to start off the 1986 hunting and fishing seasons. You can get the down to earth info on how to do it from experts, and see all the latest fishing and hunting gear, boats and motors, and talk with guides and outfitters from all over the United States and Canada. You can even get a lot of bargains at the EXPO; dozens of major retailers and smaller shops will be exhibiting and offering special show prices. It's all inside the huge Rockland Community College field house in Suffern, New York, Wednesday, February 26 through Sunday, March 2.

Doors are open from 1PM to 10PM Wednesday through Friday; from 9:30AM to 8PM Saturday and from 10AM to 7PM on Sunday. Adult admission is only $5, with children under 12 at $2. Parking is free. The World Fishing and Outdoor Exposition is easy to get to: just take Exit 14B (Airmont Road) off the N.Y. Thruway (I-87). It's the first exit west of the Garden State Parkway and is about 10 minutes drive from the Tappan Zee Bridge.

February 26, Wednesday:
4:00—Fly Fishing the West with Greg Lilly; 5:00—Fly casting demo with Lou Tabory at casting pool; 5:30—Good fishing close to home, with Jim Caposella; 7:00—Fishing with sonar, CRT, LCG and graph with Craig Gaunya; 7:30—Fly casting demo with Jerry Seim at the casting pool; 8:30—Rattling Up big bucks with Peter Fiduccia.

February 27, Thursday:
3:00—Deep sea fishing with Capt. Greg Dubrule; 3:30—Fly casting demo with Lou Tabory at casting pool; 4:00—Bass fishing with National Champ and Fishing TV star Bill Dance; 5:30—Springtime fishing on the Hudson with Tom Lake; 7:00—Lake Ontario trout and salmon fishing with Capt. Bill Kelley; 7:30—fly casting demo with Jerry Seim at casting pool; 8:00—Bass Fishing with National Champ and TV fishing star Bill Dance.

February 28, Friday:
3:00—Fly casting demo with Lou Tabory at casting pool; 3:30—Rattling Up Big Bucks with Peter Fiduccia; 4:30—150 fly fishing tips with Lefty Kreh; 5:30—Bamboo fly rod building with Walton Powel; 7:00—Springtime fishing on the Hudson with Tom Lake; 7:30—Fly casting demo with Lefty Kreh at casting pool; 8:00—Wild Turkey hunting and calling with World Champion Dick Kirby.

March 1, Saturday:
11:00—Striped bass fishing with World Record setter Bob Rochetta; 11:30—Fly casting demo with Lefty Kreh at casting pool; 12:15—Fishing with TV fishing star Jerry McKinnis; 2:00—Eastern Open Wild Turkey Calling Contest; 2:30—fly casting demo with Lefty Kreh at the casting pool; 4:30—Delaware River shad fishing with John Punola; 5:30—Shark fishing with Fisherman Magazine editor Pete Barrett.

March 2, Sunday:
11:30—Striped bass fishing with World Record setter Bob Rochetta; 12:30—Fly fishing tips with Lou

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West of Montauk to east of Block Island. Butterfish Hole to CT/R.I. Shore including the race and Nebraska Shoals. LORAN CHAINS: 9960-W & 9960-Y ONLY Loran TD's for Wrecks. Bouys, Fishing Locations, course and distance from Montauk to various key locations printed on back. *ALSO INCLUDES* "A Guide To Fishing Montauk/Block Island Sound" by Capt. Al Ristori, SHERRI BERRI - with sections on Local Knowledge; Fishing the Point, South Shore, North Side, East of the Point, Offshore and Getting Along.
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Tabory: 1:30—Bluefish and inshore fishing with Russ Wilson; 2:30—Start Them Young: Pointer Training Seminar with Lance Casper; 3:00—Fly casting demo with Jerry Seim at casting pool; 4:00—Lake Ontario trout and salmon fishing with Captain Bill Kelley.

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY BOATING SKILLS AND SEAMANSHIP COURSE

Beginning Monday, February 24th Flotilla 13-10 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will be offering a free Safe Boating Course at the Plainedge Junior High School in the Plainedge School District. The course will be given for 9 consecutive Monday evenings from 8-10PM.

This very informative course is the most extensive offered by the Auxiliary. Interesting and practical topics, such as boat handling, rules of the road, aids to navigation, charts and compass, piloting, weather, radiotelephone and marine engines will be covered.

All registrants who successfully complete the course will receive an official certificate issued by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. The certificate is honored by most insurance companies for a discount on boat insurance.

For further information, please call Bea Cooper at (516) 221-3996 after 8PM.

FULL HOUSE AT JOHNSON HEARING

It was "standing room only" at hearing called by State Senator Owen H. Johnson (4th S.D., Babylon), Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on the Long Island Marine District. The hearing focused on several bills and proposals designed to preserve and protect marine resources; recreational and commercial fishermen, as well as other interested parties, were invited to testify.

The use of Marine District resources pumps nearly $1 billion annually into the local and state economies and thousands of Long Island residents depend on those resources for their livelihoods and leisure pursuits. Also attending the hearing were Long Island Senators Caesar Trunzo (3rd S.D.) and Kenneth LaValle (1st S.D.)

During the five-hour event, Senator Johnson heard testimony from representatives of the state's Department of Environmental Conservation, Dr. William Muller, assistant to the publisher of The Long Island Fisherman; Charlie Johnson, director of the NYS Sport Fishing Federation; spokesmen for local fishing clubs; individuals; commercial fisherman and party boat operators.

Senator Johnson was pleased with the spirit of cooperation and indicated that several of the ideas developed during the hearing will be incorporated into the proposed bills.

Generating most interest at the hearing was a proposal to ban the use of trawls within three miles of certain Long Island South Shore inlets, including Fire Island, Jones, Moriches and Shinnecock Inlets. Commercial fishermen were opposed to the limit, while recreational fishermen maintained that the prohibition would allow fish to enter those bays.

Senator Johnson will continue to accept testimony through February 21. Those who wish to respond should provide two copies of their testimony to Senator Johnson at his District Office, 23-24 Argyle Square, Babylon, NY 11702. A transcript of the hearing will be available for public inspection at the Senator's District Office, at a later date.

SUNRISE FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES ITS GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

The Sunrise Fish and Game Association of Amityville, NY celebrated its 50th year as a fishing and hunting club with a cocktail party/dance at LaGrange Restaurant on February 2.

BOATING COURSE IN PORT WASHINGTON

Take a Boating Course with us. The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 12-2, will teach a 12-lesson Sailing and Seamanship course at Weber Jr. High School, in Port Washington, starting February 26th from 8 to 10 PM. Students will be taught basic sail theory, sailboat maneuvering, rigging and boat handling, weather, rules of the road, sailing seamanship, racing rules and tactics, piloting, equipment, engines and radio telephone techniques.

You don't have to own a boat to attend. For information, contact Donald Schorr at (212) 719-4872 or (516) 487-7616, or Jack Rosenzveig, (718) 767-9791.

BOATING COURSE AT WORLD'S FAIR MARINA

The Bayside Flotilla of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 12-1 is offering a course in sailing and seamanship. The course is being held on Wednesdays starting on February 19th at 7:30PM. Each class lasts about 2 hours.

The subjects covered are sailing, rigging boating handling, weather forecasting, heavy weather sailing, rules of the road, sailing seamanship, engines for sailboats, tuning and variant rigs, trailering, boat equipment, sailboat piloting, radiotelephone and other subjects.

The class is free but there is a charge for books, materials and a little graduation party at the end. A certificate will be awarded to all who successfully complete the course, a copy of which most insurance companies will honor as basic competency and give you a discount on your premiums.

The course will be held at the Auxiliary headquarters located at the World's Fair Marina.

For further information, call Clif at 718-225-8555.

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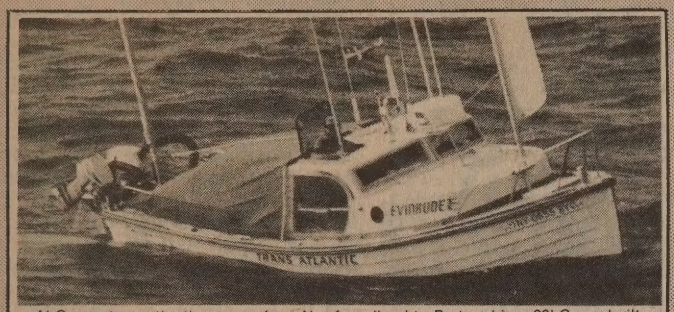

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BOATS FOR ANGLERS:

AQUASPORT 222 SANDPIPER

by Pete Barrett

"Center consoles aren't for everyone," said the Aquasport sales representative, "but you don't have to lose fishing room, storage or fishing features by choosing another boat. Let me show you the Sandpiper." With that introduction, I boarded a boat that held many pleasant surprises.

The Sandpiper is a 22 footer based on the same deep vee hull as originally designed for the Center Console Professional series that have been so well received by fishermen all along the Atlantic Coast. The big difference is in the twin side consoles, joined across the center by a windshield that folds out of the way to provide access to the bow casting and fishing area.

This design is not new in the boating world, but Aquasport has carefully and thoughtfully put the idea together in a boat that is ideal for bay, and inshore fishermen. Fluke specialists will especially like the added room of the bow fishing area. There's room for two anglers up forward and two to three more from the helm to the stern.

Casting to surface feeding fish would be easy and so would bucktailing, diamond jigging, plugging or any kind of bait fishing where the boat is drifting. Anchoring is a cinch with good footing for pulling power.

Should bad weather come along, just close the windshield, put up the bimini top and you are relatively dry; completely dry if you get the full canvas enclosure. With the canvas up, the boat seems like a cuddy cabin.

The bow is not restricted by a high grab rail and Aquasport has done an excellent job of recessing the railing along the inside edge of the bow area. It's fast and sure to grab onto and the large diameter railing is very easy to hold securely. Best of all it doesn't get in the way of casting or fishing.

A special slide-in anchor locker is molded into the bow deck to store the anchor completely out of the way, yet it is handy to get to if needed quickly. A teak door leads into the rope locker just under the bow deck.

The bow deck is at the same level as the main cockpit with a pair of seats built-in just ahead of the windshield on each side. Hinged lids get you into the storage compartments under each of the seats where there is plenty of space for life jackets, foul weather gear, bumpers and other items. The bow area is ringed with padded combings.

The starboard console mounts the steering wheel, instruments, gauges and tachs. Switches for the electrical system are well positioned. Everything is within easy reach. Space ahead of the instrument panel will hold a small Loran and graph recorder. A VHF radio can be mounted under the console beneath the steering wheel.

The port console is perfect for a bait prep area or for just washing up after boating a fish. The sink is generous in size considering the space it fits into and matched with the pressure water option you can wash your hands or bait rigging knives. The faucet is actually a shower head on a long flexible tube and if you needed relief on a hot August day, just step under the shower!

Both consoles have acres of room beneath them. Each has a teak access door on the center side and additional access on the aft side. There are built-in shelves for accessory gear and plenty of wide open space to access all wiring and steering controls for installation of new electronics or for servicing the systems.

A wide open cockpit is ready to be fitted to your fishing needs. Aquasport makes several options available that add even more storage for tackle and for icing down your catch of the day. The Sandpiper I looked over had a neat combination fish box/helm seat on the starboard side for the captain to sit in while under way and to fill up with bluefish while fishing. The same seat could be installed to port to replace the typical water ski style back-to-back seat that was on the boat I looked at.

Another fish box is built into the deck just ahead of the transom's fold-down splash well door. In back of the door is a live bait well that can be fitted with pumps and plumbing to keep any kind of bait alive.

Rod storage is via teak holders under the gun'ls with up to three rods per side. Additional rod racks could be added at the aft side of each fish box seat or at the transom corners.

Hinged lids cover the bait prep boxes at each side of the transom. Anglers who don't troll rigged baits may find these better suited for storing small lures, bait rigs and sinkers or for small packs of frozen baits so they thaw slowly and don't fry in the sun.

This Aquasport does prove that not all good fishing boats are center consoles. This design is an excellent alternative for all inshore fishing and in many ways gives the angler more comfort and storage. It is a great family boat with plenty of freeboard for young anglers to safely stay inside the boat.

She's rated for up to 245 horsepower and with that size engine would run like the wind. While I did not have a chance to run a Sandpiper, I've spent time on the CCP series Aquasports with the same hull and comparable weight and can verify that a single 200 hp engine will take the boat in the mid-30 knot range. The ride is soft and cushy, the handling is quick and sure.

SPECIFICATIONS

Length	22'2"
Beam	8'
Hull Draft	12"
Hull Weight	2200 pounds
Maximum Horsepower	245
Fuel Capacity	85 gallons

Manufactured by: Aquasport, 7925 West 2nd Court, Hialeah, Florida 33014, (305) 822-1921.

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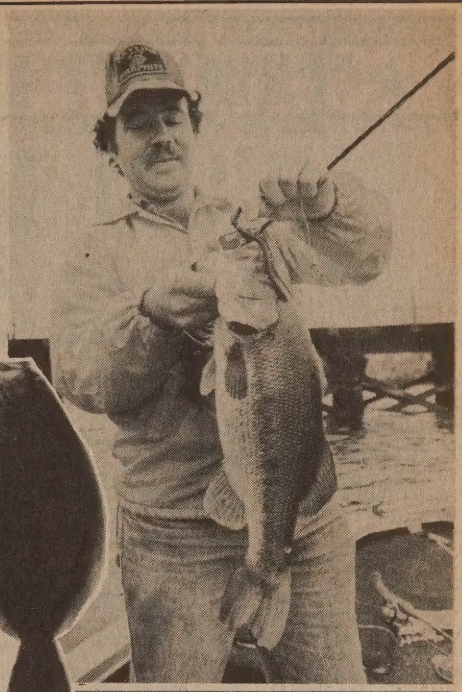

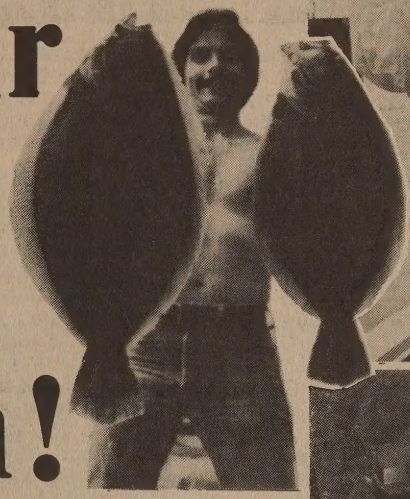

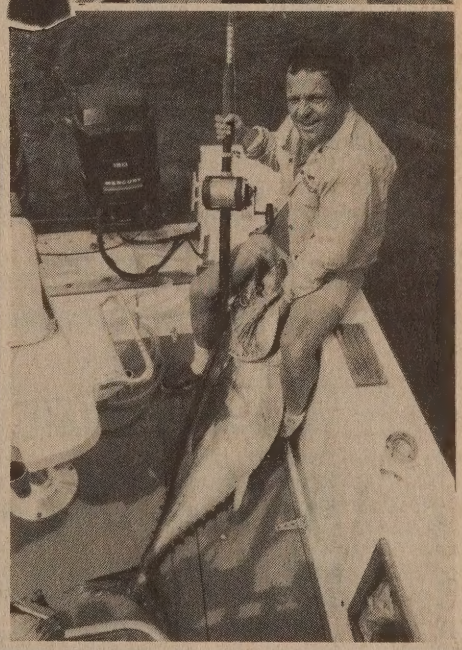

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★ PRODUCT REVIEW ★

ICOM M-80

by Greg Venturo

There's an old saying that you get what you pay for and that will most certainly hold true when it comes to marine electronics. The inclement conditions that come as a matter of fact in our sport of fishing would make non-marine manufacturers cringe with the idea of designing something that must be splash proof. Could you just imagine telling some electronics guy that you wanted to put a home computer on the center console of a 20 foot boat? I can just imagine the look.

Icom has long been a premier name when it comes to marine grade radios that are known for their quality. Indeed, Icom has won many awards for their outstanding line of products and the M-80 is certainly respected to a high degree when it comes to VHF radios.

The M-80 has many outstanding features and one of the most wanted is its water-resistant enclosure that protects the circuitry of the M-80. With seals around the knobs, shafts, buttons, speaker and all case flanges, it's no wonder this unit can take the abuse dished out by bad oceans.

The M-80 is an all-channel U.S. and International unit that also has 4 weather channels and a 10-channel memory that can be used with a single tuning knob. You never miss a channel when trying to listen in on some hot fishing reports. Don't worry about hearing "Go to the other channel" with this unit, as it also has full channel scan feature. Nice touch. The scan feature lets you scan all channels, 4 weather channels or the 10 preset memory channels.

Sea Watch is also a scan feature to some extent. Sea Watch lets you monitor a selected channel while also monitoring VHF channel 16 the emergency channel.

There are four weather channels accessed by pressing the weather button. Simply push the weather button in and turn the tuning knob to get the station desired.

Having 80 U.S. and International channels is a nice feature and the M-80 lets you select the U.S. or International channels with the push of a button.

Thinking about saving some bucks on a less expensive radio and buying a hailer? Don't fret; the M-80 has a hailer built in with 5 watts of power. The only thing you have to do is buy an external speaker. If you get the external speaker you can also hear incoming radio calls when away from the radio and in the cockpit.

Many manufacturers advertise 25 watts of power but few can produce it out of the box without bringing the radio to an electronics shop to be tuned for peaking. The Icom gives you 25 watts of transmit power from the start; of course, there is a one watt power button that will allow you to communicate within the inlet and bays without jumping over other radio calls. Now if only everybody used it when they were supposed to, we'd all be in good shape.

The M-80 can be flush, bulkhead or overhead mounted with the locking bracket that is supplied by Icom. All initial wiring that is needed is supplied and is color coded. It's hard not to be able to install it yourself. They even supply the nuts and bolts. Now that's complete!

This unit is so good, Icom provides a Lifetime Warranty. You didn't read that wrong: it's a Lifetime Warranty.

The Icom is available in a commercial model that offers a noise canceling microphone that eliminates annoying background noises.

The Icom M-80 is not an inexpensive radio, but in terms of warranty, all the features and the comfort in knowing that when you need it, it's going to work, makes this a hard unit to pass up.

No matter what VHF you get, even an Icom will only put out what the antenna lets it get out or receive. In the computer field they have a saying, "garbage in, garbage out." The point: don't spend good money on a premium radio and use a cheap antennna.

You get what you pay for and you get it all from Icom and their M-80 and M-80C VHF.

SPECIFICATIONS

Dimensions:	
Height	3 inches
Width	8.5 inches
Depth	8.2 inches
Channels	78 marine, 4 weather
Power	13.6 DC
Audio Output	5 watts/4 ohm speaker
Frequency Range	156-157.5 mHz
RF Power	1 to 25 watts
Microphone	600 ohm

Manufactured by: ICOM America, 2380 116th Avenue NE, Bellevue, Washington 98004, (206) 454-8155.

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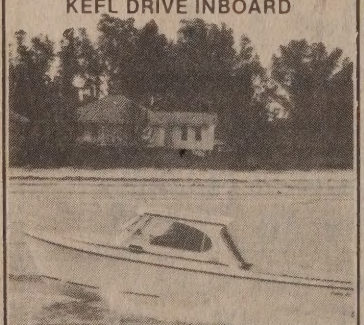
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THE TACKLE DOCTOR

by Russ Wilson

Dear Doc,

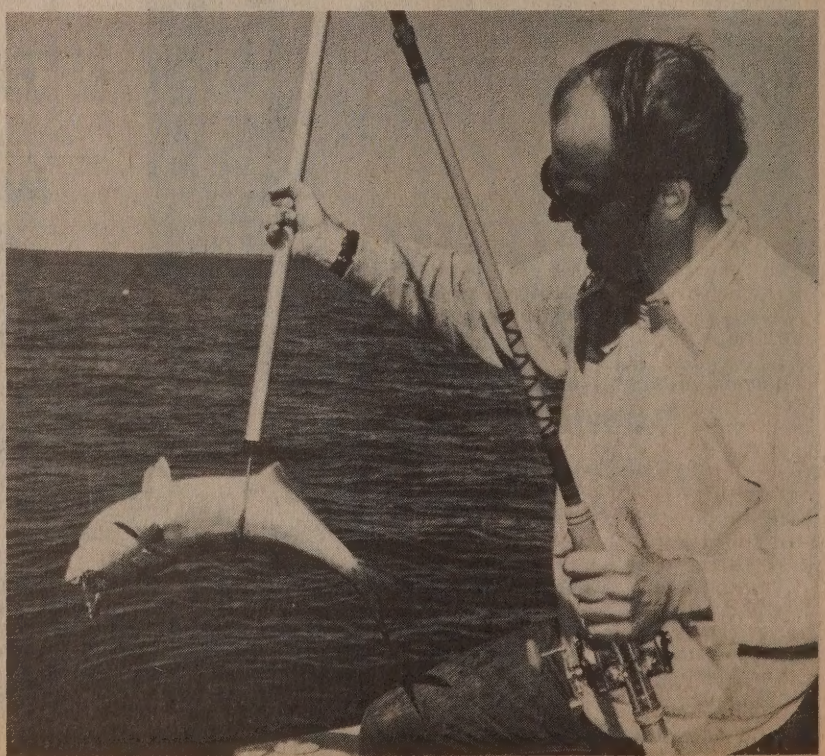
I have subscribed to The Fisherman at my place of business for the past six years, and I enjoy it very much. I have learned a great deal from its articles. This includes snelling my own hooks, and that's why I'm writing to you.

I do a lot of party boat bottom fishing, with cod being my favorite. On a recent trip with Speedy VII out of Captree, another fisherman told me that it's not a good idea to snell a lot of hooks in advance. His reason for this is that the coils weaken quite quickly. He snells a batch of hooks right before a trip. And any of the hooks that he doesn't use on the trip he re-snells his next time out. I've never heard this before, but the guy is an experienced fisherman, so maybe there's something to it. Right now, I have a couple of hundred snelled hooks, different styles and sizes, neatly catalogued and stored away in my basement. (I enjoy snelling hooks!) I've never lost a fish due to leader failure, but I see no point in risking a big fish, and maybe a pool, over a couple of cents worth of leader material. Your opinion on this matter will be greatly appreciated. And keep up the good work. I enjoy your column very much.

Very truly yours, *Tom Wientzen.*

Dear Tom,

If you are planning to throw those snelled hooks away you can toss them in this direction. We have been snelling our hooks during the winter months for more than 20 years and have yet to see any effect on their quality after being stored for extended periods of time. In fact, hooks that are left over from one year to the next are still ready to go. I would not leave the hooks out in the sun or store them in an area where there is fluorescent lighting for these can weaken monofilament, but under normal conditions the line does not break down nor do the knots if they are tied correctly. The only way trouble could occur is if



A 20 pound class conventional rod matched with a pair of reels will provide a fair amount of diversity.

the hooks are exposed to salt spray and rusting occurs. This will definitely cause weakening of both the leader and the snell.

* * *

Dear Doc,

I am very interested in obtaining a New York State freshwater fishing license, but don't know where to go to purchase a license. I know you fish New York and must have a non-resident license, so you probably know where I can buy a license. Any help is appreciated. *R.J. Rincon.*

Dear R.J.,

Most sporting goods stores, tackle shops and fishing camps carry the N.Y. State licenses. You can purchase a 7-day license or buy the full season license for a slightly higher fee.

Another excellent place to obtain a license is the municipal office in the town where you plan to stay. We've stopped at a few of these when fishing a specific area for a week or less. On Long Island there are many municipal offices that handle fishing and hunting license sales. Up near the Great Lakes you can buy a license at fishing camps, municipal offices or directly from any of the local tackle shops.

* * *

Dear Doc,

I was wondering if you could help me. I have an 18 foot boat and I usually take it out to the bay. There I do many types of fishing. I often go trolling for blues and stripers, but sometimes I go out for fluke. I am interested in purchasing a rod and reel but am extremely limited in the way of resources (money). I do many types of fishing and can't seem find the setup I have been looking for. I know what I want, but can't afford it. Can you recommend a good all around rod for the types of fishing I do?

Thank you. *Scott Radle.*

Dear Scott,

You are asking the impossible. There is no fishing rod, commercial or custom built that will do all you desire. If you are going to troll, you must use tackle that is heavy enough to handle the weight or lures, maybe wire line or lead core line and, hopefully, larger fish that may hit 30, 40 or 50 pounds. A lightweight spinning or plug casting outfit just won't make it under these parameters. For those fluke and other smaller fish require a lighter outfit (or even the heavier rod) but with different reel to accommodate the techniques that are used when drift fishing for fluke.

You can purchase a 20 lb. class rod and match it up with two different reels. Pick a quality reel such as the Daiwa SeaLine, Penn Senator or Shimano Triton for trolling situations and a smaller reel like the Shimano SG 50, Penn 940 or Daiwa 27H for your fluke fishing. It is not the optimum outfit, but it will give you a shot at both types of fishing.

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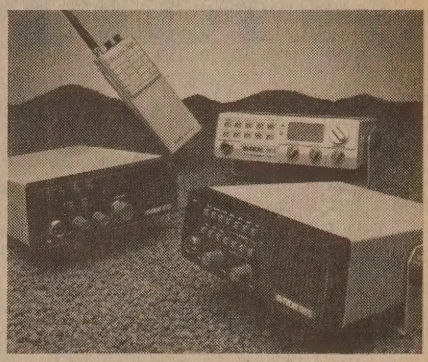

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★ FISHERMAN TRAVEL LOG ★

LAKE ANNA BASS & STRIPER BONANZA

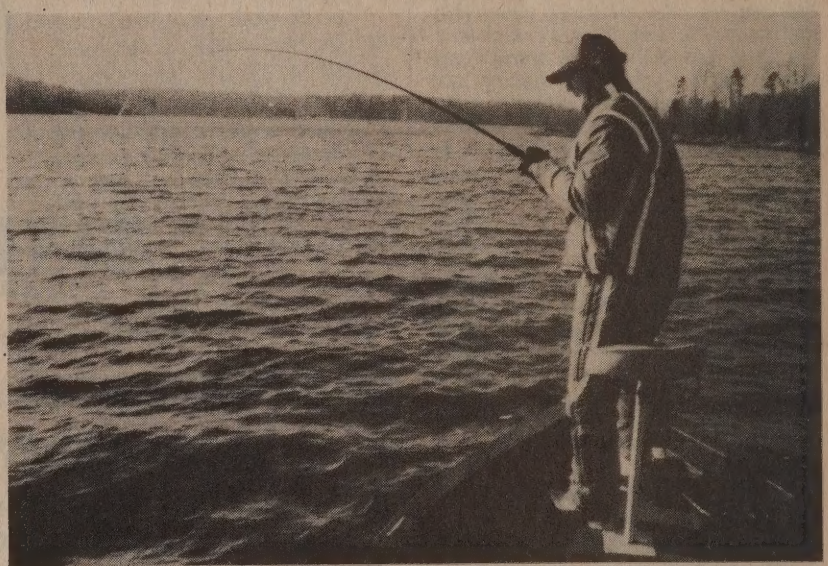
by Gary Caputi

Lake Anna and bass. There will always be a direct connection between those two names in my mind for as long as I am around this good earth. Even after I've grown too old to heft a baitcasting outfit and put the hurtin' on a fat old bass, my memories of this stunningly beautiful lake will always remain a standout. At Lake Anna, the fishing is excellent for largemouths and stripers, not to mention some of the best panfishing any lake has to offer for white perch, crappies and big bluegills, but it is such a pretty, unspoiled area that the fishing almost takes a back seat to the soothing effect the surrounding area has on your whole being.

My first encounter with Anna came about 12 years ago when I was working as Ad Manager for the New Jersey Fisherman and writing a weekly freshwater fishing column. I had heard about this new lake in Virginia only in its fourth year of development after being created by the damming of the Anna River by the Virginia Power and Light Authority for use as a source of cooling water for a newly constructed nuclear power plant. The stories reaching me were that this lake was just coming into what bass fishermen and biologists call a new lake's "hot stage" of development. What this means is the newly formed lake has been seeded with the right types of baitfish and heavily stocked with the game species that the state biologists deemed would offer fishermen the most action and greatest population in the lake in the future. The two top game species introduced into the lake were largemouth bass and striped bass. Not a bad choice at all.

With the introduction of these game fish into the lake, they began growing and in the early years of populating the lake, there is little or no pressure from larger predators and all the fish grow fast and furious. On my first trip to Anna in 1974, we caught so many 3 to 4 pound bass that it was like someone was making them with a cookie cutter. They were all short, with little heads and tails and enormous round bodies. Everyone called them "football bass" and that's just what they looked like. I went back to Anna many times over the next few years and each year the bass were bigger and just as plentiful. We eventually took many 6 lb. fish and some up to 8 lbs.

After a few years of not fishing the lake, I returned this December, four days before Christmas to try for some of the hefty stripers that are caught there in the winter months. Not only was the lake as beautiful as ever and still not built up with many homes, but the striper fishing is incredible. Each



Cecil Clipp, owner of Audrey's Motel and Restaurant on the lake, plays a striper that hit a Shorty Hopkins jigged off the bottom in 45 feet of water.

Keith DuBois, Fisherman staffer, nets a 7 pound Anna linesider for Cecil.

year Anna's fishermen set new striper records. The current lake record is over 20 lbs. and I am sure it won't stand for long since the stripers are growing at an incredible rate.

As in past trips, I fished with a guide who has become a good friend through my many return trips to the lake. I have fished with guides in a lot of different bass lakes, but Bill Mathias is not only the hardest working guide I've met, but one of the most enjoyable to spend a day on the water with. Bill came to Anna in 1974 as a hard fishing bass specialist when the lake was coming on strong. He has mastered Anna over the last 12 years and if anyone can find fish for you or give you a good bass fishing lesson and make it seem like you're just having a friendly conversation, Bill can. He has personally broken the Anna bass and striper records more times than he cares to mention. He has taken quite a few 10 lb.+ bass and stripers up to 20 lbs. for himself and his parties. There are now several beautiful full service marinas on the lake that specialize in catering to bass fishermen, be they regulars or the visiting variety. I have listed a couple along with motels and my recommendation for a guide in the sidebar of this article, should you decide to heed the call of Anna sometime in the near future.

Time of the year is almost no obstacle to fishing Lake Anna. The lake is located far enough south that it almost never freezes and the area of the lake separated from the main body that is used for cooling the power plant stays at over 52 degrees all year round and can be as high as 60 plus degrees in the dead of winter. You can catch bass and stripers there all through the coldest months of the year. Depending on the severity of the winter, you can usually catch stripers and bass in the main lake year-round too. Some of the top striper fishing takes place from November through early March. For those of you who would like to catch big largemouths too, try to get to Anna sometime in February or March. During that time, the largemouths and stripers are both available and many of the biggest largemouths of the year are caught fishing jig 'n pigs deep during those months and the stripers are usually feeding heavily.

Keith removes the hooks from a typical Anna striper. These fish fight hard and are some of the best eating fish you can imagine.

As I mention, Lake Anna has a section that is separate from the main lake that's used for cooling the power plant. No, the fish don't glow in the dark on this side, but it does contain Florida strain bass that the Virginia Power and Light Authority stocked there years ago. I guess you could call that smart P.R. on their part. This area of the lake is separated by a series of long dikes and at the dike farthest from the plant, the water feeds back into the main lake. This water feeding into the main lake through the dikes' flood gates is entering at a slightly higher temperature. You can see fishermen fishing from this dike using surf fishing gear to try for the stripers that can stack up there at certain times of the year. It's also a good place to fish for bass in the spring when surrounding waters are colder. A couple of years back, I hit a big school of bass feeding on the rocks near the flood gates and we sat there and caught fish for four hours straight. These were good size bass, most over 4 lbs., and they just kept coming.

The main lake is long with two main arms that stretch for miles away from the wide section of the lake located nearer the dam. The total lake is about 25 miles long and offers just about any type of structure you can imagine from sunken railroad bridges, road beds and sections of old highway bridges to timbered coves, steep banks in deep water and lots and lots of creek beds in the hundreds of coves that dot the lake's edges. Its water color usually varies from slightly stained to slightly muddy, depending upon rainfall. The water in general is pretty clear most of the time, although dark. It has deep areas that go over 50 feet, which accommodate the stripers very nicely. It is so large that you will need several weeks of fishing time just to see it all, but don't expect to learn it that fast. You will need many trips to start understanding this lake's many moods.

This latest foray to Anna for some Christmas stripers was an eye-opener. I had not been into the stripers in any great numbers in past trips, since we spent most of our time chasing bass. I'm rather partial to the green variety. My last few phone conversations with Bill prior to the trip had my mouth watering for the bass in striped pajamas this time; so it was decided beforehand that this trip was for the stripers only. We arrived on

(Continued on next page.)

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OUTBOARDS by YAMAHA

December 20 and only had two days to fish, since the holidays and the accompanying dinners and parties with the family were just around the corner. The day before we arrived, the temperature took a sharp drop, even by northeastern standards. When we awoke for the first day's fishing, the mercury was shivering in the thermometer and only showing 10 degrees. We met Bill and loaded our tackle into the back of his boat and proceeded to make the two mile run down to the Anna Point Marina where Bill launches his boat. Bill keeps his boat on a trailer a lot so he has the option of dropping it in the main lake or the "hot side," whichever is producing the best fishing. This proved wise, since the stripers were schooled up but loosely in the main lake and with the drop in temperature, were not in a feeding mood. I can't hold that against them, since it was so cold that I wasn't exactly in a fishing mood either. But we endured.

We switched the boat over to the "hot side" after a lunch break to warm up some after chipping the ice from the guides all morning. There were plenty of fish marking on the graph recorder but none showing any interest in hitting our offerings. The water surface temperature on the main lake was still about 50 degrees, but the sudden drop in temperature was having an effect on the fish. On the "hot side," the water temperatures varied from 54 to 58 degrees and the first area we stopped at was loaded with fish. The marks on the recorder were so large at times that you could watch our jaws drop as we looked at the paper advancing across the screen. We were in the area of a deep channel with over 50 plus feet of water that shoaled up onto a point and an island with fish marking from 25 feet down to the bottom at 50.

I started off with a spinning rod with 8 lb. test and white bucktails with a bit of chartreuse hair mixed in and a chartreuse twister tail. Bill and Keith, my fishing buddy, put on 3/4 oz. Hopkins of the Shorty variety. After a few casts, I had my first strike, which for all the world felt like a white perch. It was easily felt, but not a hard strike at all and when I set the hook the jig came up empty. The second fish that hit the jig, again in a soft manner, was not so lucky. I hit him and he took off like a freight train on the light tackle. These stripers are no slouches when compared to their saltwater cousins. They're probably the strongest freshwater fish I've had the good fortune of hooking. The battle went on for a good 15 minutes, with me gaining line and the striper taking it back off the reel again. I was expecting a very big fish by the time it was in view of the boat. It wasn't exactly small, but it wasn't as big as I expected for the accounting of himself that he gave during the fight. The fish tipped the scales between 9 and 10 lbs. and was stunningly beautiful with its white belly and silvery sides marked with the distinctive stripes that gave him his

name. Within a few minutes, Keith hung a fish on the Hopkins. This was a good fighting fish, too, even though it only ran 6 lbs. These lake stripers are tough fish on any tackle.

The lures used most during the winter months for stripers include the Shorty Hopkins, mostly in 3/4 oz. size, although Keith used a 1 oz. in deeper water that was just as effective. The Hopkins used are with or without a bucktail on the hook. Treble hook models are the best and many of the local striper specialists change the hook to a slightly larger and sharper one of the freshwater variety. The Hopkins is fished in a vertical jigging style right under the boat while locating and watching the fish and the depth they are at on the front flasher of the bass boat. It is important to watch the flasher so you know just what depth to keep the Hopkins at for longest presentation to the fish. This type of vertical jigging is done by letting the jig sink to the desired depth and then raising the rod sharply and letting the jig sink back down to the end of the available line. It is very important to keep the line under control when the lure is sinking and to watch the line closely for any telltale sign of a hit. Most strikes occur on the drop!

The other prominently used method is bucktailing. White bucktails in 3/8 oz. are used the majority of the time, but they are not effective unless you have found stripers above 25 feet. I also used some soft bodied jigs of 1 oz. that should produce fish a little deeper. The bucktails are cast, allowed to sink and then slow retrieved with or without a jigging motion. You will be surprised at just how lightly these big fish will hit the bucktails.

For tackle, you can fish the bucktails well on medium action spinning tackle, but be sure you have a reel that holds a lot of light line and has a great drag in good working condition, because you are going to need it. You can also fish them on baitcasting tackle, which we used more than spinning. Catching big, hard running fish like these stripers on a pistol grip baitcasting rod is a lot of strain on the wrist, so you might want to consider using a straight butt rod to make fighting the fish easier on you. I hung a fish the second day on a pistol grip rod and 12 lb. test line on a standard spool size Bantam baitcasting reel and fought it for 15 minutes before it straightened out the snap I used to secure the Hopkins to the line. I have never had a freshwater fish wreak that much havoc on tackle and never had one that could straighten a snap like that. I don't know for sure how big the fish was, but it sure felt like a good one. We had several other nice stripers the second day along with a few 3 lb. largemouths that hit the Hopkins in over 40 feet of water.

Although this article gives you a good idea of what Anna has to offer in the winter months when most northeast bass fishermen are just dreaming of spring, don't pass up Anna as a great vacation spot in the spring and summer. Camping is great on the state parks and the surrounding areas are historic and beautiful. Civil War era mansions can be found abandoned around the lake's shores with their slaves shanties out back. The lake is abundant with all types of wildlife from turkeys, buzzards and deer and this year we saw our first bald eagle feeding on the lake's shad. If you want to fish for hard fighting stripers, Anna's got them. If you want to chase trophy largemouths, she's got them too. What's even better is the lake is within easy driving time from just about anywhere in the northeast, located just 60 minutes south of Washington, D.C. For more information, call Bill Mathias, who can make all the necessary arrangements for a fun fishing trip. The peaceful setting and beautiful surroundings will keep you coming back again and again.

For more information on Lake Anna:

Bill Mathias, Fishing Guide and Instructor, Route 1, Box 1025, Bumpass, VA 23025; (703) 895-5114.

Anna Point Marina & Boatel, Route 1, Box 360, Mineral, VA 23117; (703) 895-5900. (Steve Mudre, Proprietor)

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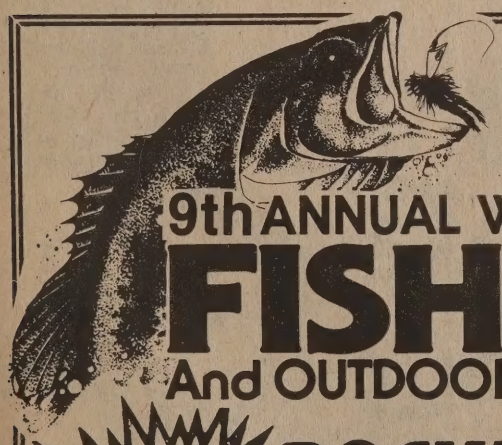

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A VERSATILE SPINNING ROD

by Art Michaels

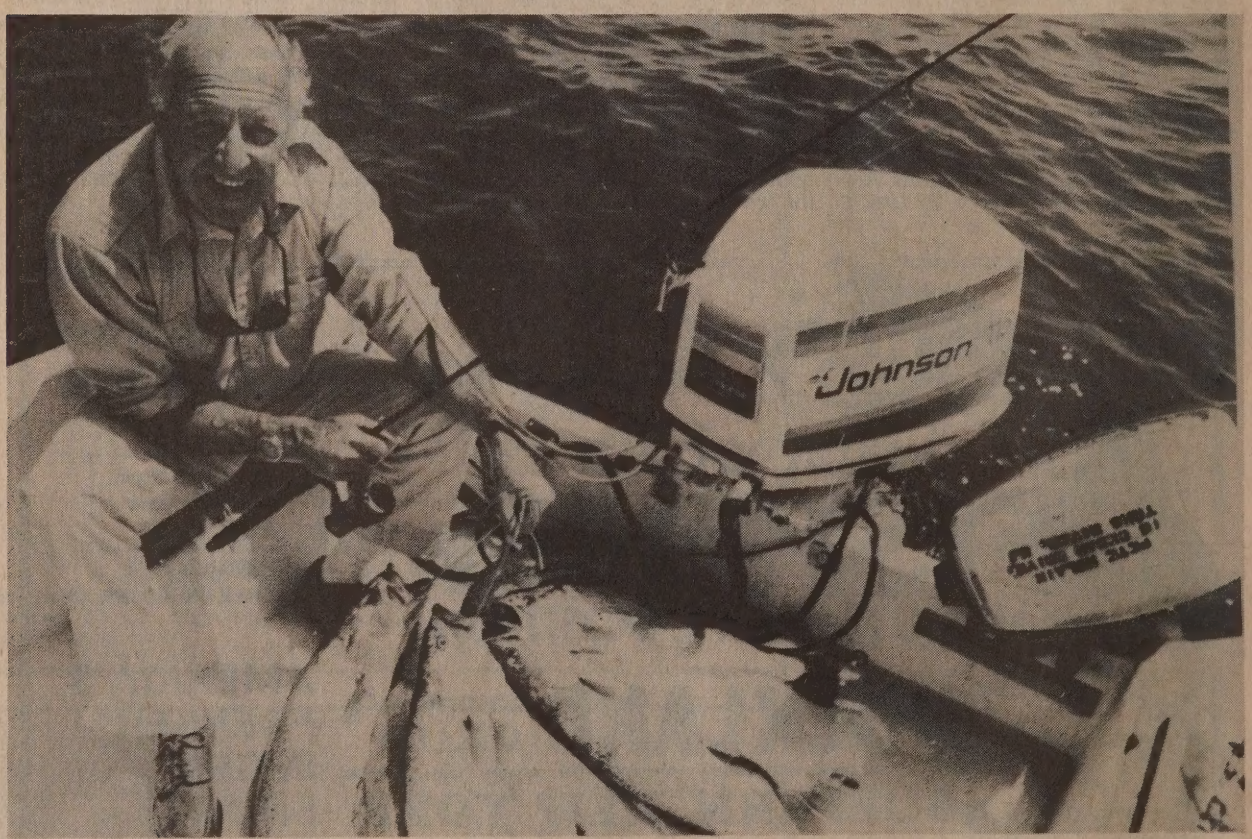
If you were going to buy one spinning rod for use in just about any freshwater fishing situation and for use in some saltwater circumstances, you'd probably look first at the top of the line graphite and boron sticks. But in most cases, top of the line also means top of the price list.

The better way I've found to solve this cost problem is a 7 foot glass spinning rod. It's the only one I use on just about all my freshwater trips. It's got a super-sensitive fast tip for those light-biting hefty spring crappies, but it's also got some backbone for bringing in bottom-hugging bass. This rod is terrific if you like one pole for all kinds of fishing. Best of all, the rod is affordable, whether you make it yourself or have someone build it for you.

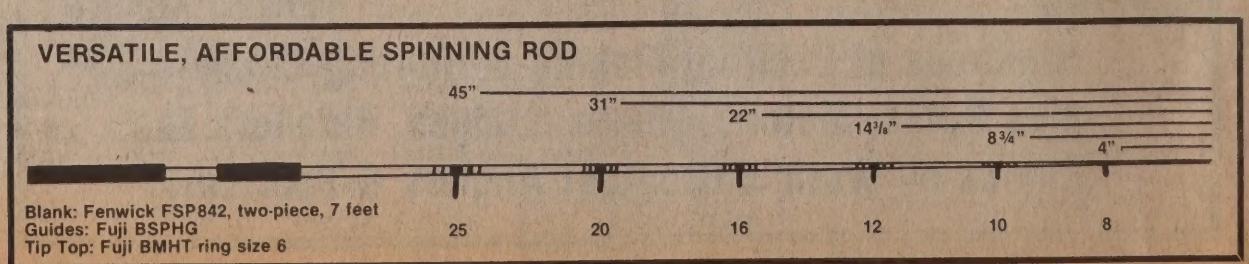
The rod is also useful in many saltwater situations. Blues and weakfish have been gaffed under its bend, and many flounder, fluke, and blackfish were taken with the rod.

My solo spinning stick starts with a Fenwick SP-842 blank, a two-piece glass 7 footer that's ferruled glass-to glass. Even though the idea may seem unusual, I recommend only this blank or the graphite-to-graphite ferruled Fenwick FSP-842 for this rod because I've found the right combination of components only with this setup.

I used a Fuji BMHT spinning tip top in size 5/; with six guides: Fuji BSPHG in sizes 8, 10, 12, 16, 20 and



This 7 footer is ideal for weaks in the bays of Long Island and Jersey.



25. For distances between guides, see the illustration. I put on a brass winding check with an inside diameter of 17/32 inch.

I selected a gold-colored Featherweight reel seat (five inch) with a 3/4 inch inside diameter, but other reel seats you may want to consider include the Fuji FPS graphite (5 inch, 18mm) or a Varmac with a 25/32 inch inside diameter.

The foregrip consists of eight half-inch species cork rings, and the butt grip is made of 12 half-inch species cork rings. I also inserted two eight-inch burned cork rings for decoration, and so that I quickly distinguish between this rod and several others, I finished off the rod with a .937 inch (inside diameter) black plastic butt cap.

I don't recommend using a spinning stick for fishing plastic worms for bass, but one rig, a slider jig with a 4 inch plastic worm, is suited well for this rod and for the bass fishing in The Fisherman readership area. Forget those stories you read elsewhere about 10 inch worms and 5/0 hooks for largemouth bass—they are geared for Southern-style bass fishing, which differs greatly from bass angling in these parts. For most of the bass fishing here, four to six inch worms are right on the money with size 1/0 and 2/0 hooks. All in all, some of these smaller rigs are suited fine for this spinning rod.

The slider jig setup fools a lot of bass with this spinning rod. On the rod I use my trusty Mitchell 300 filled with 6 pound test or 8 pound test mono for most freshwater fishing, but I usually spool up with 10 or 12 pound mono for saltwater action.

I troll quarter pound and 3/8 ounce hardware on this rod and reel combo, and I've taken some hefty 7 pound walleye that barely tapped my offerings—the sensitive, fast-action tip of this rod helps in these light-bite situations.

On some days, I put on a sinker and a glob of worms and go after catfish and carp. I had great sport hauling in a 12 pound carp once with this rod and it's the best gear for the huge bulls that live in the Passaic River. I like going after these critters with this rod and reel setup because the rod has the sensitivity and lightness to detect strikes, but it also has a backbone when I need to haul in a hawg.

Similarly, I use this rod often for all kinds of fishing in the bays and tidal estuaries from the Hudson River to Little Egg Harbor. For instance, the rod has stood up to some really nice white catfish for the spawning run that occurs in April and May, and it's my constant companion for the blues, weakies, fluke and blackfish available in South Jersey's bays and harbors.

Finally, good fishing can be very expensive with several rod and reel combos, boats, trailers, equipment, and other gear, but at least with this all-purpose spinning stick, I keep those costs down by using this one versatile rod in many situations.

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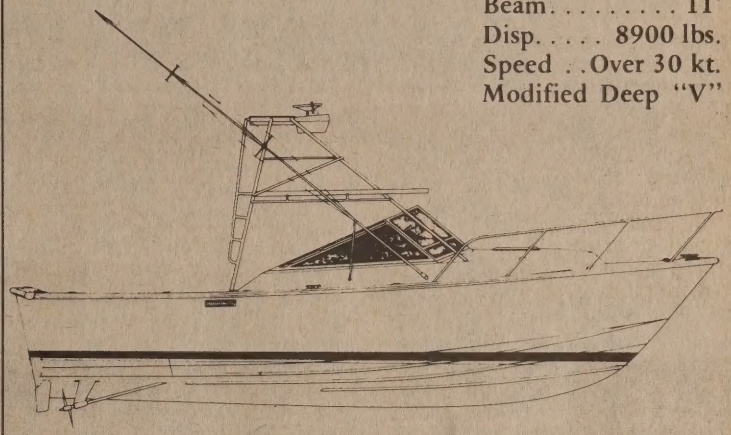

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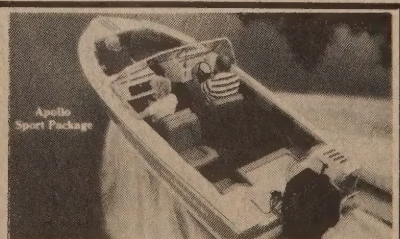

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LEARNING SOME VALUABLE LESSONS

by Matt Ahern

Learning the ins and outs of the fishing game can be as much fun as the fishing.

"God Bless The Blackfish."

So stated the hand-lettered plaque fastened to the wall behind the much-scarred counter of Old Walt Warner's Brooklyn tackle shop. I can still see it in my mind's eye, but when I first spotted it nearly 60 years ago, the ravages of time had already reduced its once red lettering to a faded pink. As a 12-year-old fisherman, I had no idea what it meant. But that statement intrigued me no end.

I'm sure Mr. Warner never considered me an ideal customer, what with my meager purchases of snapper hooks and infrequent demands for a half-dozen sandworms for lafayette fishing (the long, fat ones, please). At least, he never seemed overwhelmed by my presence. Eventually, though, I did drum up enough courage to ask about that plaque and its meaning.

"You'll find out when you go blackfishing," was the reply.

Not much of an answer, you must admit. I took another tack. "You mean they put up a pretty good fight?" I said, thereby repeating what I'd heard numerous times.

"Oh, sure," Mr. Warner replied. "But that's not what the sign means. At least not for me, anyway." He glanced at the large Roman-numeraled clock on the wall. "Almost lunch time." He returned his gaze to me. "Um-m-m. You seem a mite interested, lad. Come in back."

Those few steps leading from the front of the shop and through a curtained alcove brought me to a whole new world—a world of which I was unaware.

From the ceiling of Mr. Warner's workroom hung dozens and dozens of surf rods in various stages of development and manufacture. Close by, suspended from cup hooks, were light flounder rods, heavy party boat rods, and straw-thin fly-casting rods, each awaiting some final touch of the master's hand. The acrid, cloying smell of lacquer and spar varnish pervaded every nook and cranny.

Along one wall, an old, much-used, wood turning lathe stood steadfast on its cast iron legs, an unfinished butt held firmly in its grip; dozens of unworked butts lay on the workbench alongside, each patiently waiting to be transformed and fitted to the scores of split bamboo, greenhart and lancewood blanks stacked neatly to one side. Hardware in the form of reel seats, guides, ferrules and tip-tops lay in orderly piles on a nearby workbench, their sizes stated in large black numerals. Never had I seen such an array of tackle.

"Over here, lad," Mr. Warner called as I stood mesmerized at the sight. "Here's what the sign means."

I walked over and stood before a large workbench.

Fastened to one corner of it was a goose-necked fly-tying vise; on the opposite side, a small, common vise. On the bench proper lay a score of small wooden cheese boxes which contained many hundreds of loose hooks, each container individually marked according to its contents sizes and styling. Precut bundles of tarred snoods for hook snelling reposed in a bank of pigeonholes, each bundle giving off its characteristic odor of creosote. Spools of silk winding thread in many hues were impaled on thin wooden dowels set securely in the bench's thick top.

"This is what the sign means," Mr. Warner repeated. He indicated the area with a nonchalant wave of one hand.

Mr. Warner tapped me on the shoulder. "Pay attention now, lad, and I'll explain. When the boys go blackfishing they lose hooks and sinkers by the ton—or so it seems, for that's the way blackfishing is. A large part of my business is to make and sell replacements. Every winter when things are slow, that's what I do. Why I bet you I tie three thousand blackfish hooks alone—not counting hundreds of fluke hooks and leaders, porgy hooks, cod hooks, and so on. And I make at least 500 pounds of sinkers of all sizes. Even then, I'm liable to run out, which means I have to sit nights and play catch-up"

I felt that familiar glow of anticipation. "Will you teach me?" I asked.

"Teach...teach what?"

"How to tie hooks."

I guess I went a little too far in my enthusiasm. Mr. Warner hesitated a second, and then draped an arm around my shoulder. "I wish there was an easier way to say this, you being so anxious and all, for I don't want to hurt your feelings. The truth is, son, I just can't give away trade secrets. Lord knows I've got enough competition from those old-timers in the neighborhood. They all know how it is done." He reached into one of the piegonholes. "Here...to make you feel better, here's a half-dozen blackfish hooks I tied on a special order last week for a guy who never came back. Take them as a present—from me, to you."

I wish I had those hooks now, but I lost them the first time I went blackfishing with Artie Leidecker and Aaron Feldman off the rocks at Manhattan Beach. Those hooks were unique in the sense that today's fishermen rarely see that type of blackfish hook. They were of blued steel, like those in use today; but here the similarity ended. The shanks of these particular hooks were serrated and contained no eyes. Instead, their shank ends were flattened. These two features made it easier to secure the tarred snell to the shank while being hand-wrapped with silk thread. Once a drop of spar varnish or lacquer was applied and allowed to dry, it was impossible for that tarred snell to pull free.

While Mr. Warner wasn't anxious to share his trade secret with me, he did reveal, wittingly or unwittingly, that our neighborhood's old-timers also held the key that would unlock the knowledge I desired. I admit I made a shameful pest of myself. And yet, not once was I ever told to "get lost!"

It took some doing, too; not because I was refused, but because hook tying wasn't an everyday occurrence. I had to bide my time until one of those old-timers decided his hook supply needed replenishing.

In the meantime I wasn't idle. I'd taken one of Mr. Warner's gift hooks and, with the aid of a razor blade, had carefully sliced through the windings and removed the tarred snell and tried to determine how it was done. It seemed simple enough—and it was... until I came to finishing the wrap. How was that winding secured so that the knot didn't stick out like a sore thumb? What kept it from unraveling?

I tried varnish. But when the wrapping dried, I was no further ahead, for it easily unraveled, varnish or no varnish. I tried lacquer. Still the

same—the winding would loosen. I tied the troublesome end with a separate piece of thread. The result was strictly unreliable and amateurish. For a 12-year-old, it was a vexing problem.

But eventually, as the saying has it, everything comes to those who wait.

My tutor, one whom I'd pestered to distraction, was master fisherman Gus Schmidt, a spry old-timer who belied his advanced age. Gus met me one afternoon as I was returning home from school.

"You come over to my diggin's after supper kid and I'll show you how to tie hooks." As an afterthought, he mumbled: "Then maybe I'll get some peace around here."

You can bet I was right on time. Gus' workshop was his kitchen. He, too, had a goose-necked fly tying vise. This one was secured to the kitchen table.

I watched as Gus placed a large cod hook in the vise (its japanned shank came to a needle point) and, starting at that end, he began to wrap on a two foot length of tarred snell with a predetermined length of red-silk winding thread.

When this wrap neared completion, he stopped, looked at me and said: "Now, watch." He then took a six inch strand of surplus wrapping thread, ran it across a stick of bee's wax (to prevent binding), then doubled the strand and laid it over the just completed windings, with its rounded end facing the business end of the hook. He then continued the wrappings by making five turns over the short strand. When this was completed, Gus cut the wrapping thread short and inserted it through the exposed loop. He then grasped this short strand by its "legs" and drew the winding thread under the last five turns with a quick tug.

The loose end, the end which had given me so much trouble, now lay snug and secure under the last five strands of the winding silk. It was then cut so close to the main windings that I could not detect where the hocus-pocus had begun.

Gus removed the snelled hook from the vise and handed it to me. "That's called a hidden knot, kid. If you don't use it, the windings won't hold. You can use it to put guides on a rod, too."

And that's all there was to it. Nothing succeeds like simplicity.

I tied hundreds upon hundreds of hooks with this method. When nylon monofilament leader material came on the market, hidden knots went out. Just as well, for silk wrapping of hooks was never satisfactory because of its tendency to fray on rough bottom, especially when blackfishing. I continue to use it for guide wrapping, though. It was also a slow process when compared to today's professional method of tying barrel knots to eyed hooks.

But even so, in those long gone days there was sure a lot of fun tackling a little bit of learning. Sometimes!

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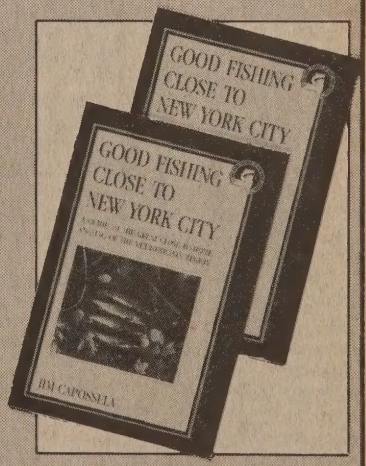

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BUCKTAIL KNOW HOW PAYS DIVIDENDS

by Russ Wilson

If you hope to catch fish on these lures you must present them in a natural manner.

At recent sport and boat shows we've been asked by many salt and fresh water anglers why we always tout the bucktail type lure as being one of the most productive for catching a variety of fish. In an effort to cover all bases at once, while giving each and every angler a chance to see for themselves why we feel this "plain Jane" lure is among the best, we decided to explain our views on bucktailing and the reasons that it is so successful under varying conditions in both fresh and salt water environments.

There is no other lure that so closely resembles the real McCoy. A tiny bucktail can pass as a stream minnow, crawfish, salamander or baby eel and is a must item in any freshwater angler's bag of tricks. I cannot think of a fish that will not grab a bucktail, and this includes everything from the lowly carp to a 4 ounce bluegill, sunfish or crappie. Trout go wild when they spot a small bucktail dancing slowly through their lair and it's a well known fact that those pot bellied largemouth bass will wear out their fins to get at a bucktail jig and worm combo.

To be a success at bucktailing, however, you must present the lure in as natural a manner as possible. This means keeping it near bottom when attempting to fool a streamwise brown trout and making it appear as natural as possible when jigging for deep dwelling largemouths. Perch, pickerel and most panfish also require a touch of finesse, but in their case it is not quite as critical.

In the salt, bucktails can be used in a variety of ways and will still outproduce most other lures by a wide margin. The combination of lead and hair allows a lot of leverage on the angler's side of the fence. With a bucktail it is possible to fish deep, shallow or mid-range waters effectively, something that cannot be done with most other lures.

We've had amberjacks come up from the reefs or wrecks to inhale a hunk of lead and hair while totally ignoring the usual array of lures and baits. And when fishing Panama, we had all kinds of fish in depths of over 200 feet vying for our bucktails while showing little or no interest in natural baits.

Crappie about to inhale minnow that is rigged live on a bucktail type lure.

Striped bass, bluefish, weakfish and fluke are prime candidates for the bucktailer who knows what he is doing. There have been days when we used only a bucktail and literally loaded the boat with fluke as nearby anglers dunked bait and watched enviously as we had a bonanza.

A newcomer to bucktailing, whether it be fresh or salt water, has been misled into thinking that to work a bucktail it is a must to impart additional action into the lure and as a result most first timers try to imitate the famous "Florida Whip" by hauling mightily on the rod to make the little leadhead jump like a frantic pole vaulter attempting to clear 20 feet. This is normally the main reason why so many fishermen quickly revert to their usual techniques without really giving the bucktails a thorough chance to prove themselves.

You DO NOT impart too much action to any kind of bucktail lure unless you really don't care if you catch fish or not. The way to fish these lures is to give them just enough action to make them look alive.

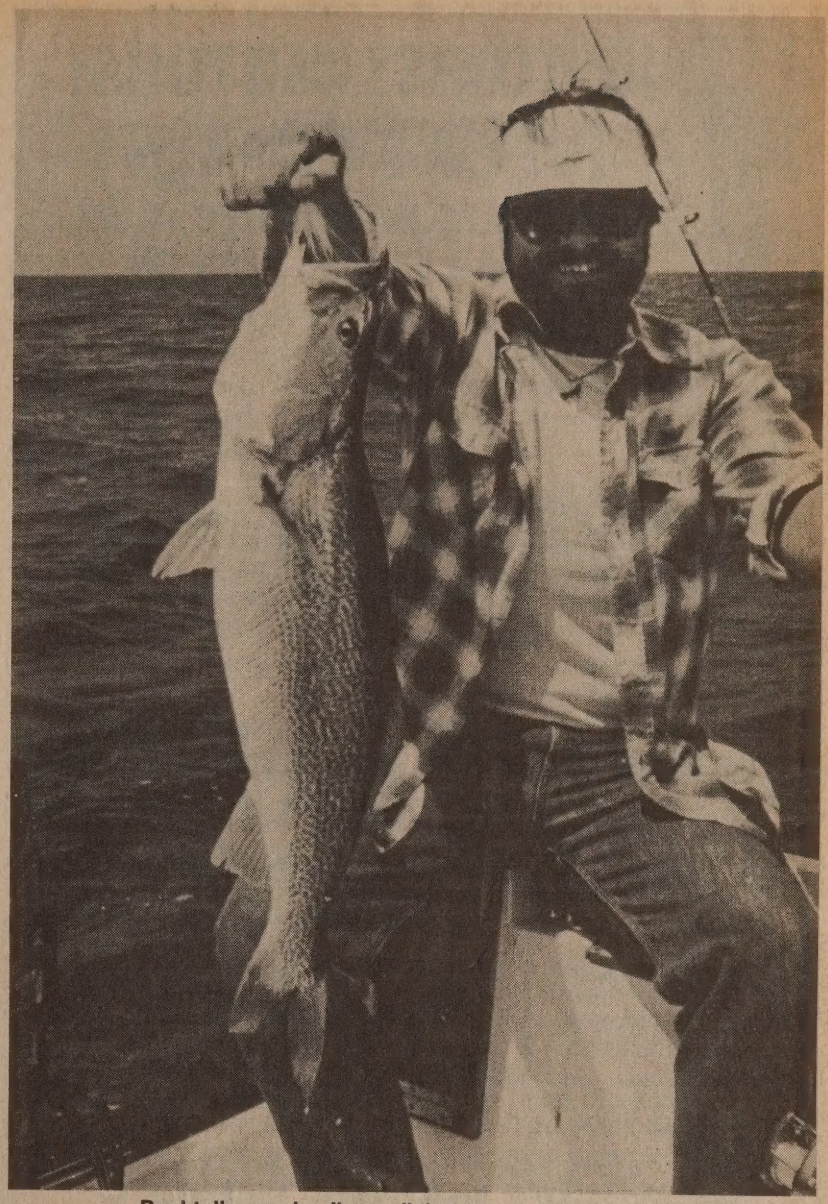
Anyone who has fished for a length of time knows how a healthy baitfish looks as it swims serenely along in the current. For those who don't, a small baitfish does not zoom through the water at flank speed and it certainly does not swim up and down like a yoyo. Under normal conditions most baitfish will swim a near straight line with little or no up and down movement. They may dart ahead to investigate something that looks edible or to escape a larger predator that is trying to make them his next meal, but they do not go through the up and down motion that many fishermen attempt to duplicate.

The quickest and easiest way to learn how to work a bucktail type lure is to use it in the same manner as you might work a metal or swimming plug. The gentle retrieve which imparts a slow, undulating swimming motion will usually get results. But, at times you may discover that slight pumping (gentle lifting of the rod tip as you turn the handle of the reel) will bring fish on the run.

This gentle lift and drop motion causes the lure to move in a slight up and then down pattern as it moves ahead, but does not make the lure any less natural appearing to fish. It may, in fact, give the impression of a wounded minnow, and will then trigger the urge to strike in a larger fish that thinks he has found an easy snack.

Last spring we had an opportunity to fish with Joseph Armenti of Trenton. Armenti is a pro at tying and fishing flies but on this particular day the trout were deep (it was right after opening day and the water was roiled and cold) and the only way to catch them was to present the bait or lure at eye level.

Armenti tied a 1/16 ounce bucktail to his 4 lb. test mono and promptly began to show the rest of us how to catch trout under those conditions. All he did was to allow the lightweight bucktail to drag in the current and each time he did a brook or rainbow would jump on. For awhile he had the rest of our group pulling their hair until he revealed his technique and then all of us began to follow it and found it was the best way to catch those fresh stocked fish from the roiled waters of the South Branch.



Bucktails are deadly medicine on tiderunner weaks.

A similar occurrence, this time when jigging for striped bass at Shrewsbury Rocks on a bitter cold November morning proved just how critical it is to present the lure in a natural fashion. On this trip we had two sales representatives from eastern Pennsylvania, neither of whom had ever caught a striped bass. The standard method of working a bucktail at the Rocks is with wire line (most experienced fishermen go with 150 feet of 40 or 50 lb. test single strand) is to jig the lure as the boat moves along at normal trolling speed for stripers. This technique is called "rowing" by regulars and through the years has accounted for thousands of trophy size linesiders.

On the day in question we could not buy a striper when using the regular jigging technique and for several hours all we did was enjoy the scenery, eat sandwiches and swap tall tales. Quite by accident one of the group tried a short jigging technique that is popular among Cuttyhunk striper fishermen and immediately hooked up with a respectable size bass. The short stroking action of the rod caused the two ounce leadhead to spurt ahead a foot or so and then go into the usual dropback and on that day it was the key to a good catch.

You never know what will trigger the feeding urge in a fish. That's why bucktails are so effective. If one method fails to put fish in the box all you need do is try using a different

(Continued on next page.)

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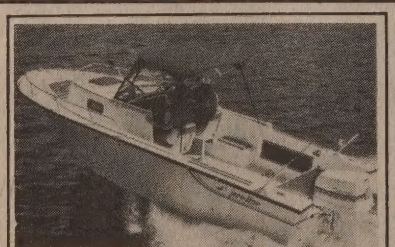

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technique or going to a larger or smaller bucktail. Usually the change in tactics will bring some response or at least allow you the satisfaction of knowing you tried something different even if it was not a success. Striped bass, above all other fish, are unpredictable and can reverse their attitude without rhyme or reason. Those who succeed at catching stripers are usually willing to experiment with lures, colors, addition of pork rind, fish fillets or something out of the ordinary.

Weakfish or blues will often show signs of suicidal tendencies. We've all had trips when the fish literally jumped into the boat in their haste to end it all and by the same token we have had trips when it was almost impossible to get the fish to strike. Using a bucktail will not always turn the tide, but very often it will add to your chances of catching.

When weaks or blues are down deep, meaning near or only a few yards off bottom, the only way to catch is when deep jigging. You can accomplish this by utilizing a regular style diamond jig with or without the surgical tube tail, or you can deep jig with a standard type metal such as the Hopkins or Ultimus. Both metals will catch fish under most situations and we would not think of heading out the inlet without having at least a few of them in the tackle box.

However, we also would not—under any circumstances—leave the dock without a full selection of bucktails on board. This means several different colors, weights and models. As a general rule of thumb we carry lima bean, bullet head, Musket Ball, Smilin Bill and the boxing glove shapes. All have taken fish at one time or another so it does pay to carry each style, for under different conditions one may prove a better choice than another of similar weight and coloration. The basic difference is how quickly the lure sinks or how well it stays down in a rushing current.

You certainly would not try to catch a half pound crappie on a three or four ounce bucktail and by the same theory you would not consider using a 1/16 ounce marabou type bucktail when seeking striped bass or slammer bluefish. But, on the fresh or salt water scene you will find it pays to have a wide range of weights and colors for those days when the fish are playing hard to get.

The most important ingredient is **concentration.** When using a lead-head you've got to think. Does the lure resemble something good to eat as it is being presented by you? And, does it "match the hatch" as far as size and shape are concerned? Also, are you putting it in the water strata that is inhabited by the fish you hope to catch? These are things that change from day to day or even from hour to hour. By concentrating on what you are doing you will notice these subtle changes and can then react accordingly to compensate for the ever changing conditions.

Bluefish that are stacked like cordwood a scant five to ten feet off the bottom are not about to come up to the surface to grab a lure. You have to put the lure in their lair and then see if it has fish catching appeal. A gently worked bucktail will usually get the attention of a deep dwelling blue or weakie if it is offered in a near natural fashion. The gentle lift and drop, often no more than 4 or 5 feet up and then back to the bottom looks natural to the fish and will not go unnoticed.

We've caught a lot of weaks and blues that we might not have if we did not concentrate on what we were doing and how it appeared to the fish. This is especially true when working deep waters for big weakfish but it also applies when fishing deep waters for most species of fresh or salt water game fish.

The bucktail is, in effect, nothing more than a hunk of lead and a hank of bucktail hair. It's been around for centuries and through the years has caught millions of fish that might not otherwise found themselves being devoured by a half-starved human. It is not the appearance of this lure that puts fish in the box, it is the manner in which the lure is presented to the fish.

Try using a slower approach, pick bucktails that are similar in size to the prevailing baitfish supply and see if your catches do not increase. Most of the elite ten percent of the anglers who catch ninety percent of the fish are familiar with the lowly bucktail. And, those we've known would not have it any other way.

Before tucking the typewriter into its plastic shell, we might add one short experience that sums up bucktailing more effectively than ten thousand words. Last fall we happened to be "paper watching" (scanning the bottom contour on our chart recorder) while slowly working our way to one of our pet spots a dozen miles north of our home base. The chart paper was as barren as one of the Plains states during a tornado and we just idled along at a snail's pace so we would arrive at the hotspot shortly before the flood tide.

A few gulls circled the flat calm surface hoping to pick up a morsel or two and we watched as a couple other fishermen/boaters trolled a mile or two offshore of us. One moment the ocean was as yesterday's news and the next we had blues breaking water and chasing bait in every direction. Out came the popping rods, on went the 1½ oz. bucktails and in seconds each of us was tied into a kill crazed bluefish. Our technique? Toss the lure as far as we could and then crank it back at flank speed. If one blue missed, it was no more than a split second and another had the hunk of lead and hair. So much for technique and finesse. That day the fish wanted to get caught and we did our utmost to see that they were not disappointed. As we said before, it does pay to experiment.

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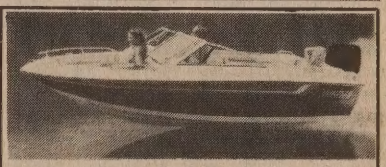

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★★★ 1985 REVIEW ★★★

OFFSHORE SCENE

by Al Ristori

Though 1985 had all the usual ups and downs, it will go into the books as the "Year of the Green Water." The diatom bloom that did great damage to the scallop population of Long Island bays, also created a "green water" condition that spread south and east in the Atlantic. By late summer it was into Hudson Canyon and down to DelMarVa. In September it even spread to Montauk and Block Island offshore grounds.

Fortunately, the green water was a surface phenomenon, and didn't seem to affect the health of fish. However, the ocean species largely avoided it—or went deep. Only the bluefish seemed to actually enjoy that condition.

Among the many "ups" was the return of the spring blue shark run, an early giant tuna season, fine summer school tuna action on the west bank of Butterfish Hole, late summer night chumming for yellowfin and bigeye in Hudson Canyon—and the Bacardi tuna fishing in October. The "downs" included a poor mako season to the east, an early end to the giant tuna action there and practically none at all in the Mud Hole, and the worst trolling season ever recorded in Hudson Canyon. On the other hand, there was a surprise run of small dolphin that bailed out some of the canyon boats, and more big blue marlin than ever were caught in this region.

Spring came early in 1985 and blue sharks were readily available well offshore from Cape May to Montauk by late May. Though this isn't unusual, there was some worry about whether the blue shark population was in trouble due to the increase in longlining and a very poor 1984 spring run. However, as Jack Casey of NMFS had speculated, it was the excessive spring runoffs in 1984 that had lowered salinities and kept the blue sharks far offshore—out of reach for most anglers.

An unusual aspect of last year's blue shark run was the abundance of large specimens, even off the New Jersey coast—which rarely produces big blues. The big spring runs of the past consisted almost entirely of small blues, mostly under 100 pounds. However, 200 pound blues weren't uncommon in 1984; and they were abundant last June. There was a particularly strong run off Block Isand in late June and early July which provided the Montauk Captain's Association Shark Tournament at Captain's Cove in Montauk with most of its winners. There were lots of 200 to 300 pounders brought in and some of over 300 pounds. Though the spring blue shark run was a success, it may not bode all that well for the future as the quantity of small blues just wasn't there as in the past.

Montauk produced a fine summer run of giant tuna but the fishing was a flop after mid-August.

Mako fishing off the Jersey Coast jumped off to an early start and left little to be desired for about three weeks. Bob Schrama brought the first mako into Hoffman's Anchorage in Brielle on Memorial Day—the earliest mako ever recorded there. The Resor Wreck area broke wide open on the first weekend in June, and lots of 200 to 400 pound makos came into Jersey and western Long Island ports for a couple of weeks. However, by the weekend of June 22, only a few big makos were being caught, and tournament prizes were falling to threshers and blues.

That might have indicated that the makos had moved east, but nothing much ever developed out there. A few large makos were caught, though most skippers were happy to catch one of any size—and there were many "shark dummies" among them during the summer. Big tigers dominated some summer tournaments, threshers seemed a bit more abundant than usual and a 365 lb. hammerhead was caught by Rick McCoy in the Bahr's Landing Tournament at Highands, New Jersey.

The honors for first giant tuna went, hands down, to Larry Gorman and his crew on the Puffin from Freeport. They were shark fishing on May 30 at the Virginia when a giant jumped on a 50 lb. outfit. It took a few hours, but they managed to boat the 475 pounder—only to later find that the season didn't open until June 1st! Fortunately, NMFS was very understanding about that situation. It's unlikely that very many people are aware of that opening date, since the first giant usually isn't taken in this area until July.

As it turned out, giants were caught off Block Island in mid-June, and that trolling fishery was at its best before

the month was out. It got spotty in July before Captain Bob Rocchetta got things started with chum on his charter boat Rainbow from Montauk on July 14. The chumming reached a peak on July 18 when practically every boat in the fleet hooked up—many several times. There were some more good days from then into mid-August, but after that the giant tuna fishing became very spotty off Block Island. A few giants were taken from the west bank of Butterfish Hole, and there was a very brief and surprising September run off Shinnecock. The highlight of the season was the thousand pounder taken off Block Island on Captain Paul Stern's Tuna Tangler.

The Mud Hole fishery off the Jersey Coast in September and October was a complete flop. Despite the 50 ton set-aside in the quota for that late fishery, nothing at all developed. I know of only four giants taken in the Mud Hole last year, and there were plenty of experts who made a dozen or more trips without success. The only interesting thing that happened out there was an unusual run of thresher sharks. They weren't much sport on giant tuna tackle, but some multiple catches of that fairly unusual shark were made. Green water covered the Mud Hole throughout the early part of the fall tuna season, and that may have had something to do with the poor fishing. Ironically, trawlers reported seeing giant tuna in the Mud Hole in December!

The school tuna fishery out east got off to an early start when bluefins and yellowfins showed up on the west bank of Butterfish Hole in late July. That fishing was generally excellent in August, with diamond jigging working well at first. Chumming then came to the fore, and an unusual run of albacore developed in those 140 foot depths, 14 miles south of Montauk Point. For instance, on August 12, I made a short trip out there with a charter on my Mako 25, boat Sheri Berri. In just three hours, three anglers caught 15 mixed tuna—including four albacore from 42 to 60 pounds. Later in the month there were also dolphin in these blue waters. At the same time, quite a few medium bluefins were being caught on the Block Island grounds.

Ironically, after that great start, there was spotty school tuna action in September. In-between the good days were others when only bluefish were caught—and the choppers became a severe problem as the month advanced. Even worse was the green water which finally arrived in early September, though it would come and go. There was some very good school tuna action off Shinnecock after the giants left, and an abundance of bonito and little tunny kept the action going. There were also lots of yellowfins further to the southeast. By the end of the month, it was necessary to run about 40 miles southeast in order to get into schools of medium bluefin and yellowfin—plus lots of sharks.

The canyon fishery started off with a bang in mid-June when a warm water eddy broke off the Gulf Stream and sliced through the center of Block Canyon. Not only were bigeyes caught, but even dolphin and wahoo, and the Tiger Lily from Shinnecock scored with a 745 lb. blue marlin. That eddy was traced by Captain Len Belcaro for his Offshore Services customers (P.O. Box 866, Point Pleasant, NJ 08742).

Fishing returned to normal after that warm eddy disappeared, but there was lots of yellowfin and some bigeye action in Hudson Canyon during the Harbor Festival Fishing Tournament at the end of the month as a 7.5 degree temperature change line was located. Unfortunately, trolling in Hudson Canyon was basically terrible for the rest of the summer. It was also poor to the south, but better in Block and to the east.

The only thing that saved the season was the development of night chunking in Hudson Canyon from late August well into September. That produced great numbers of yellowfins plus many bigeyes. However, it was only on one weekend in mid-September that trolling also paid off. Perhaps it was the green water which kept the tunas down and away from high speed lures—or it could be the ever-increasing domestic tuna longlining which is going on out there.

The other encouraging development was the proliferation of blue marlin catches. September was a big month in Block Canyon, topped by Pete Fisher's 835 pounder in the high stakes Montauk Monster Marlin Tournament. An unusual number of big blues were caught in the canyons off South Jersey, but mostly at the 200 fathom line. At the Harrah's Tournament, some 15 blues were caught and an 835 pounder beat out others of 738 and 651 pounds. On the other hand, white marlin fishing was very poor there and everywhere else except far to the east.

The big game season was topped off by the outstanding Bacardi tuna run in October. School and medium bluefins were very abundant, and there were also yellowfins earlier in the month. The only problem with that fishery is that it's a long way from shore at a time of year when weather conditions are very changeable. Nevertheless, more boats than ever before participated in the fishing—and that's the only reason that the 1985 New Jersey Offshore Survey will probably show about the same catch level as the year before—though that's less than one-third of the catch in the first year of the survey, 1981.

As always, there were good things and bad to be said about the 1985 offshore season. The same will surely apply to 1986, but we'll all be out there in any case to savor the good days and hope for better on the poor ones. Here's hoping you have more of the former than the latter!

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SHOPPING FOR A QUALITY FISHNG BOAT

Part Two—*by John Raguso*

Self-Bailing Deck. This is a term that's used frequently in many manufacturers' catalogs, but it seems everyone has their own definition as to what it really means. As a rule of thumb, a true self-bailing deck is situated above the boat's waterline, is crowned slightly at the centerline with drain channels located on each remote side of the deck to expedite the flow of water, has 2 to 4 large scuppers with one-way flapper valves located at the boat's transom to drain all deck water out but not back in, and most importantly, has a **completely sealed** deck that will not allow water to seep into the bilge area between the outer hull and inner deck liner. This last factor is often overlooked and I've been on many "self-bailing" craft that have had fishboxes, baitwells, step-wells, or I/O boxes drain directly into the bilge, thereby presenting some major problems that always seem to surface down the road at the most inopportune of times.

The concept of a self-bailing deck is to ship sea water out through the boat's transom as fast as possible, not allowing any of it accumulated on deck to access the bilge to disrupt attitude or stability. This is easier while the boat is under way, but it should also happen while at rest; hence the requirement for a raised and crowned deck. Even though most I/O access boxes, under-deck fishboxes and baitwells are usually designed with molded runners/raised edges to impede water from entering, I've not yet come across one that was completely watertight. In fact, I heard a sad story where a 25' Bertram owner left his boat tied at the dock on Fire Island this past fall, only to return the next day to find it underwater. It seems that he left his deck scuppers unplugged, and enough rainwater from a passing storm had collected in the bilge to lower the 25's effective waterline to a point above these drain holes. Seawater then cascaded into the bilge through the I/O access box seam faster than the bilge pump could kick it back overboard, sinking the Bertram at its mooring. Hence, the value of these inexpensive, one-way rubber flapper valves located over the scuppers should not go unnoticed.

Some manufacturers straddle the fence on this self-bailing issue by having their fishboxes and baitwells drain overboard through various plumbing fixtures situated **below** the waterline. While this may be superior to having water drain directly into the bilge, there is still a cause for concern with this system. Should a conduit hose or a clamp fail at the wrong moment, sea water could enter the bilge from the outside-in without the operator ever realizing that a problem existed.

A safety measure would be to put a bronze sea-cock at each below-deck drain fitting and better yet, keep them closed at all times unless you're draining out your fishbox or baitwell while under way.

From my experience, if the self-bailing feature is a most important attribute of your prospective boat, then a straight outboard setup would be your best layout. The full transom of an I/O or bracket drive outboard would force any inboard sea water to exit primarily through a few 1 to 2 inch drain holes, and if you had shipped a wave while running a sea or inlet, there might not be enough time to drain the deck before the next roller came aboard. With the straight outboard, the 2 to 4 scupper holes at the transom are complemented by a lowered freeboard where the engines are mounted, which will channel out great amounts of water very quickly over the transom in concert with the scuppers, especially while making headway.

Foam Flotation. Boating industry regulations stipulate that any boat under 20 feet in length must have "level" or "positive" foam flotation. Translated, this means that if the craft is swamped with water, it must have enough buoyancy to keep it upright and level, floating at or about the sheer line. Urethane foam is typically used to achieve this flotation characteristic and it's sprayed into strategic cavities under the deck, between the stringers and in the sides of the hull. Conversely, boats in excess of 20 feet are not required to have any flotation, and most of them do not. The implications of this scenario, are that should the boat get holed or introduce water into the bilge at a rate faster than the pumps can expel it, the boat will, in all probability, sink like a stone. This is not a comforting thought when you're out plying the blue waters in less than optimum sea conditions. Manufacturers like Boston Whaler, Grady White, Mako and Robalo use urethane foam in ALL of their boats, achieving positive flotation in some and basic flotation in others depending on the weight, power plant options and fuel tank capacity of the model in question. A fringe benefit of the foam is that it also provides insulation, sound-deadening and stiffness characteristics that make for a smoother, quieter ride, in addition to keeping your fish and beverages cooler for longer periods.

Although the effectiveness of foam flotation is debatable in some boats in the 25 to 29 foot range when you consider their weight and machinery complement. I'd rather be in a boat that had the urethane foam than one that didn't, should a problem arise offshore. It's possible that the basic flotation provided in some of the larger boats might keep you afloat long enough until help could arrive or perhaps provide a stable running attitude as you limped home at reduced RPMs. In any case, the presence of urethane foam in a hull shows that the manufacturer went the extra distance to incorporate an additional safety measure into the boat, often at his expense. Even as a raw material, urethane foam is expensive. When you factor in the extra costs for manpower and machinery, it can put a severe dent in the profit margin to include foam as a standard feature, especially if your competitors' boats aren't using it and everyone's priced in the same ball park for their finished product.

Fuel Capacity. I mentioned earlier that your offshore hull should have at least a 140 gal. fuel tank capacity, and this is especially true if you're opting for twin V-4 or V-6 power plants. My 24 foot Grady White rig has a single 200 Merc with a 25 Johnson as an insurance policy. The V-6 gulps about 10.5 GPH at 4000 RPM, which equals 25 knots in the bay and about 23.5 knots in average seas of 2 to 4 feet. This gives me approximately 2.3 nautical MPG when running at optimum planing speed and a little bit less when trolling or traversing through rougher seas. To take into account all variables. I use a conservative 2 NMPG when computing my range on any given day.

To illustrate what this means in real life, let's consider a typical Texas Tower trip departing from the Bay Shore town dock. It's about 10 nautical miles to the Fire Island Inlet and roughly 60 miles further to the Tower, so the trip out and back is 70 + 70 = 140 miles. Divide this by

our 2 MPG rate to get 70 gal. of fuel consumed, providing I track a straight course each way. Commuting will kill about 6 hours door to door, so let's factor in another 6 hours of trolling at a 5 GPH rate, which should account for an additional 30 gal. of gas and a 12 hour day. Total fuel bite for the trip should approach 100 gal. using my formula. Analyzing three Tower trips we took last season in varying seas, we experienced burn rates of 86 gal., 81 gal. and 83 gal., respectively; so my conservative numbers were a little on the high side. If we had gone the extra 15 to 20 miles each way to reach the depths of Hudson Canyon, add about 20 gal. to the estimate.

Your goal when computing fuel consumption vs fuel capacity capabilities should always strive to keep a 20 to 25 percent figure in reserve. This is to account for heavy weather, should you have the misfortune of catching it unexpectedly, and also to consider the 5 to 10 percent of your tank's fuel supply that's not usable due to the dynamics of how the pick-up tubes transfer fuel to your power plants while under way.

Remember, in the analogy of how my boat performs, I was using a single V-6 outboard. Dual V-4 or V-6 motors on the same rig would probably consume more fuel, so the calculations will change. If you have no intentions of ever seeing the blue water with your new boat and will keep it primarily in the 10 to 30 fathom areas, you won't need such a large fuel capacity, but it still makes sense to go through this analysis process to ascertain your maximum safety range, should you ever get the urge to push just a little further offshore.

The concept of having at least a 140 gal. fuel cell is not so farfetched when you consider what I've just presented. However, this will be a dynamic requirement that'll depend on the efficiency of your hull and power plants, but remember the words of the wise old sage: "Thou never seems to have enough fuel, but this volatile propellant should be in your tank, not on deck." The message here is that bringing along extra tanks on long range trips may be a short term fix for your boat's range deficiency. It's more prudent to go the extra step on the front end when you first purchase the boat and get the optional tanks factory installed. It's dangerous enough dealing with unpredictable ocean and weather conditions; to have to worry about fueling a boat in bouncing seas is a "no win" situation that could lead to a fatal outcome.

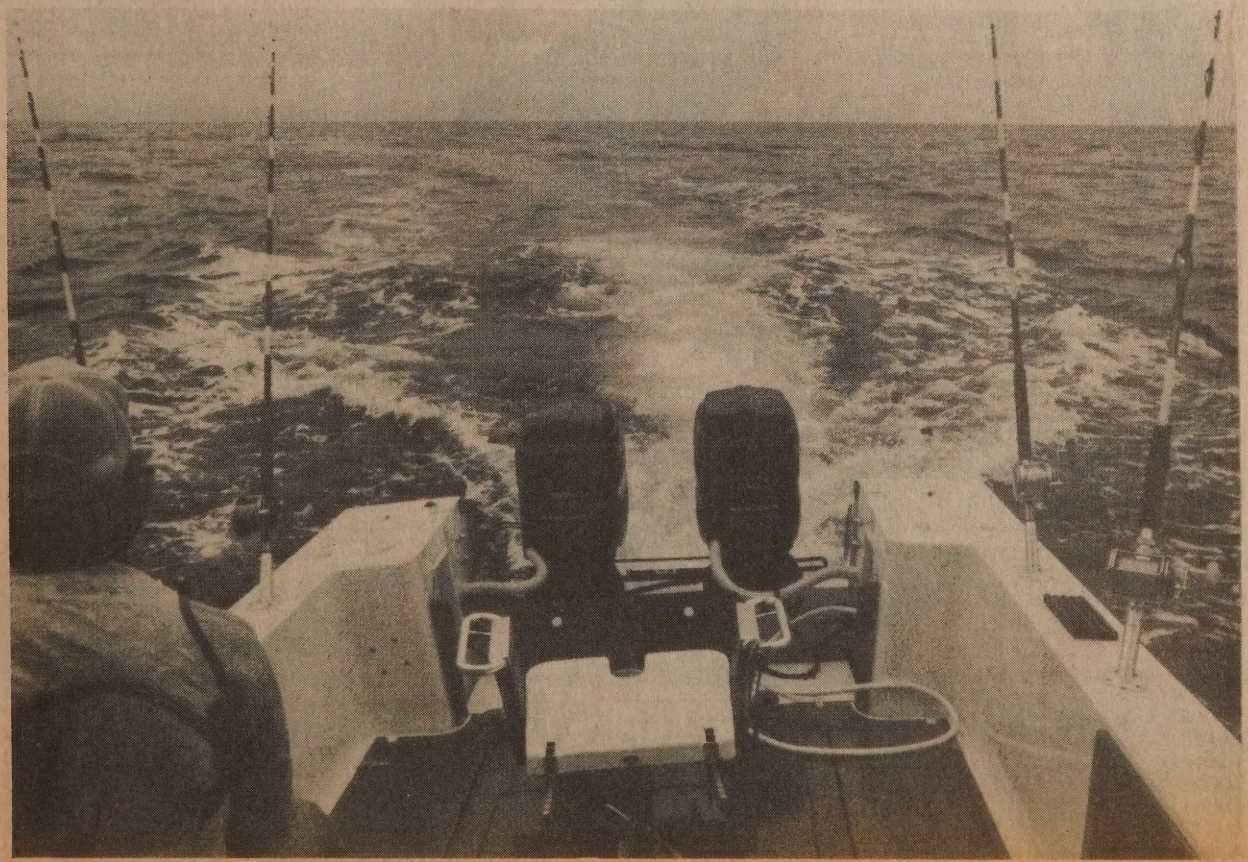
Overboard Drains on Fishboxes. There are a number of different setups employed when it comes to incorporating a fish box into a hull's deck layout. Since these boxes collect water, ice and fish blood among other things, there's got to be an easy way to dispose of this liquid mixture or it becomes a problem. I've seen fish boxes that either pull out or drain into the bilge and these examples should be avoided. Besides defeating the self-bailing quality of your deck, they create a messy and smelly problem that will come back to haunt you, long after your successful fishing trip has been filed in the log.

In-deck boxes are fine as long as they have heavy duty hoses and fittings that drain through the transom and are secured by a sturdy bronze seacock. Easy access to the bilge area through an inspection hatch or deck plate is an important feature that will make this system work.

Above-deck boxes with onboard drains frequently give you more room to store fish due to their less-restrictive nature, but have you ever done an unexpected light fandango when stepping on a deck wet with fish blood? I have, and I've got a few scars on my shins that bring back those painful memories of slipping in fish slime from a box that was emptied on the deck. This format is workable if you keep the plugs in the boxes and remember to wash down the deck after you've drained the box of its liquid.

Overboard drains on above-deck fish boxes are the ideal setup, because they retain the hull's self-bailing integrity and direct all of the unwanted slime and blood overboard with minimal hassles, untouched by human hands. If the boat is designed correctly, the boxes will also drain while at rest, which is not the case for below-deck boxes with thru-hull plumbing. The problem with this system is that since the boxes are

(Continued on next page.)



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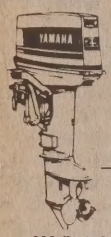

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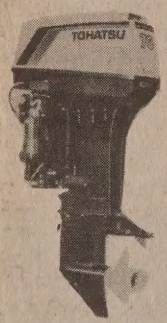

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above deck, they'll take up valuable cockpit space, so where do they go? Most manufacturers who employ this approach normally do so using the fish boxes to anchor helm or passenger seats, or in a raised casting platform like on many center consoles.

Dual Motors, Batteries, Bilge Pumps. When Noah loaded his ark prior to the 40 days and nights of rain, he took two of everything. That's the best advice available to anyone who's venturing out on the briny beyond sight of land. With the fiscal cutbacks experienced by the Coast Guard and the introduction of $100 per hour private towing rates, you can easily see the value of a slightly larger investment up front. Being equipped with a second battery, bilge pump and engine not only could save the day, but also spare you a $600 towing bill down the road, because you couldn't control your own destiny.

As mentioned in prior articles on twin power, a single V-6/auxiliary combo is tough to beat for controlled maintenance costs and fuel economy. The down side is that if you come back on the kicker, it'll be at a 5 to 7 knot displacement speed if you've got the correctly pitched prop. Dual power setups are effective if you can plane on a single mill. Oftentimes this requires that you carry a spare prop of lower pitch in order to let the single motor shoulder the burden of pushing the load formerly carried by twins.

Dual bilge pumps are always a nice touch, especially fore and aft. The way some boats are designed with deep forefoots to break the seas, an aft pump may not kick out water that collects up forward or vice versa. It's not going to set you back too much to have the second automatic/manual pump installed, plus it's a real safety feature should you start taking on water in the bow where many collisions occur.

Dual batteries are a smart bet, in particular if you have parallel twin powerplants. It makes sense to set up each engine on a separate circuit, so that one can't contaminate the other in case of a malfunction. I've heard of some offshore enthusiasts who employ a three-battery setup: one for each engine and one for electronics. In case you opt for the single V-6 or V-4/auxiliary format, you can rig the main engine on one battery and your electronics to the other. A battery switch can be used to cross-over these functions should an emergency arise and it's also a smart play to put an alternator on the kicker as an electrical circuit insurance policy.

That about wraps things up. Keep in mind that no one boat really has the best of everything. These features I've described should inform you as to what quality details are most desirable in small to mid-sized seaworthy craft. By trying to find a hull that incorporates as many of these as possible, you should insulate yourself from a bad investment and ensure future enjoyment and resale value.

THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

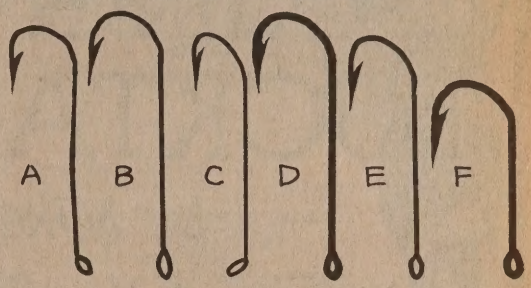
(1) STRIPED BASS AND ALL FISH... FRESH OR SALT... FEED MOST HEAVILY ONE HOUR BEFORE AND ONE HOUR AFTER HIGH TIDE... AND ONE HOUR BEFORE AND ONE HOUR AFTER LOW TIDE.

TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF PAGE.

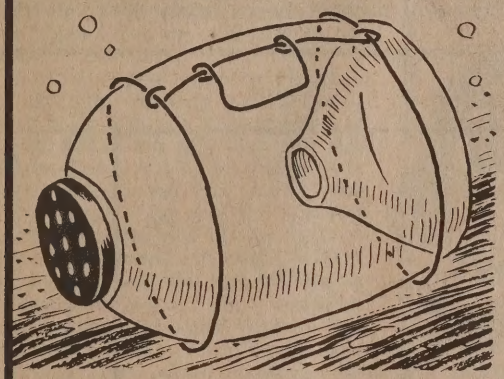
BY FRED GUARDINEER

(2) MATCH THESE POPULAR HOOKS WITH THEIR PROPER NAMES SHOWN BELOW.

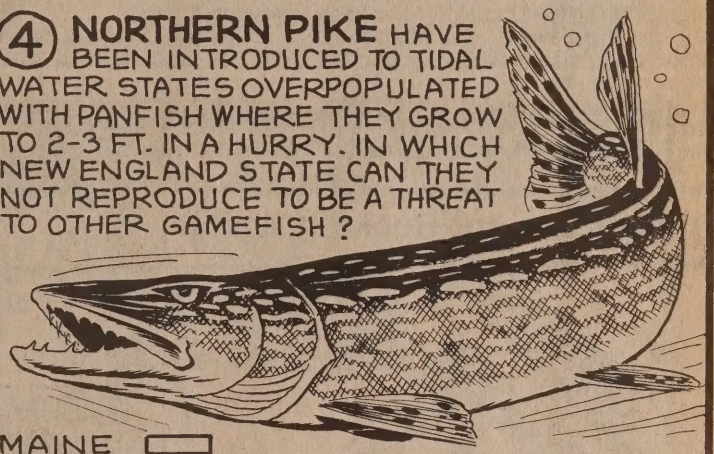


LIMERICK... ☐ SPROAT..... ☐
CARLISLE.. ☐ O'SHAUGHNESSY ☐
CHESTERTOWN ☐ SIWASH..... ☐

(3) THIS BOTTLE, NOW A COLLECTOR'S ITEM, WAS VERY EFFECTIVE IN ITS DAY 80 YEARS AGO. IT IS A -----

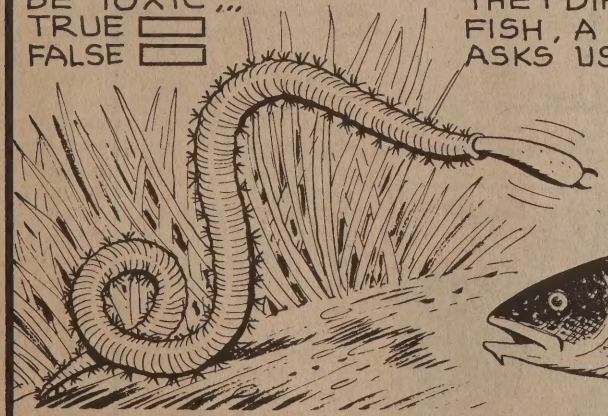


(4) NORTHERN PIKE HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED TO TIDAL WATER STATES OVERPOPULATED WITH PANFISH WHERE THEY GROW TO 2-3 FT. IN A HURRY. IN WHICH NEW ENGLAND STATE CAN THEY NOT REPRODUCE TO BE A THREAT TO OTHER GAMEFISH ?

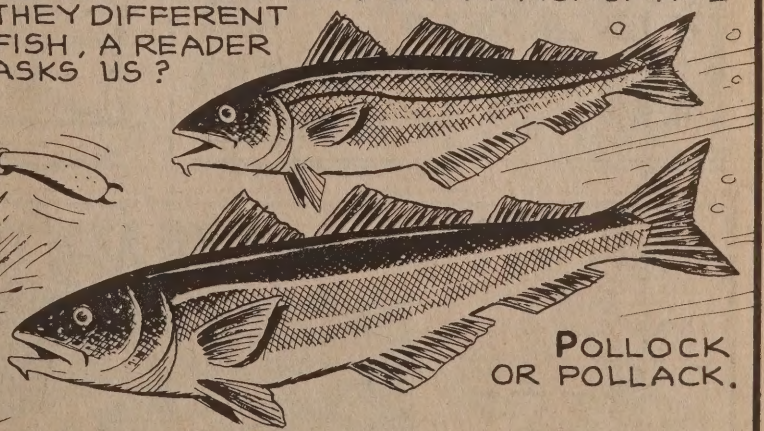


MAINE ☐
CONNECTICUT ☐ RHODE ISLAND ☐
MASSACHUSETTS ☐ NEW HAMPSHIRE ☐

(5) THE BITE OF THE BLOODWORM CAN BE TOXIC...
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐



(6) ARE POLLOCK AND POLLACK DIFFERENT NAMES FOR THE SAME FISH OR ARE THEY DIFFERENT FISH, A READER ASKS US ?



POLLOCK OR POLLACK.

1-TRUE. 2-(A) LIMERICK (B) CARLISLE (C) CHESTERTOWN (D) SPROAT (E) O'SHAUGHNESSY (F) SIWASH. 3-A FLINT GLASS KILLY TRAP. 4-RHODE ISLAND. 5-TRUE. MILDLY SIMILAR TO A BEE STING. 6-POLLOCK AND POLLACK ARE DIFFERENT FISH BUT BOTH ARE RELATED TO THE COD AND EACH CAN GROW TO 4 FT... POLLOCK-*LIGHT LATERAL LINE*-ARE FOUND OFFSHORE IN N. ATLANTIC OFF U.S... POLLACK-*DARK LATERAL LINE*-ARE FOUND IN SHORE NORTH ATLANTIC OFF EUROPE AND CAN BE FISHED FROM SHORE.

★ HOW TO SPECIAL ★

MAKING YOUR OWN BUCKTAIL WALLET

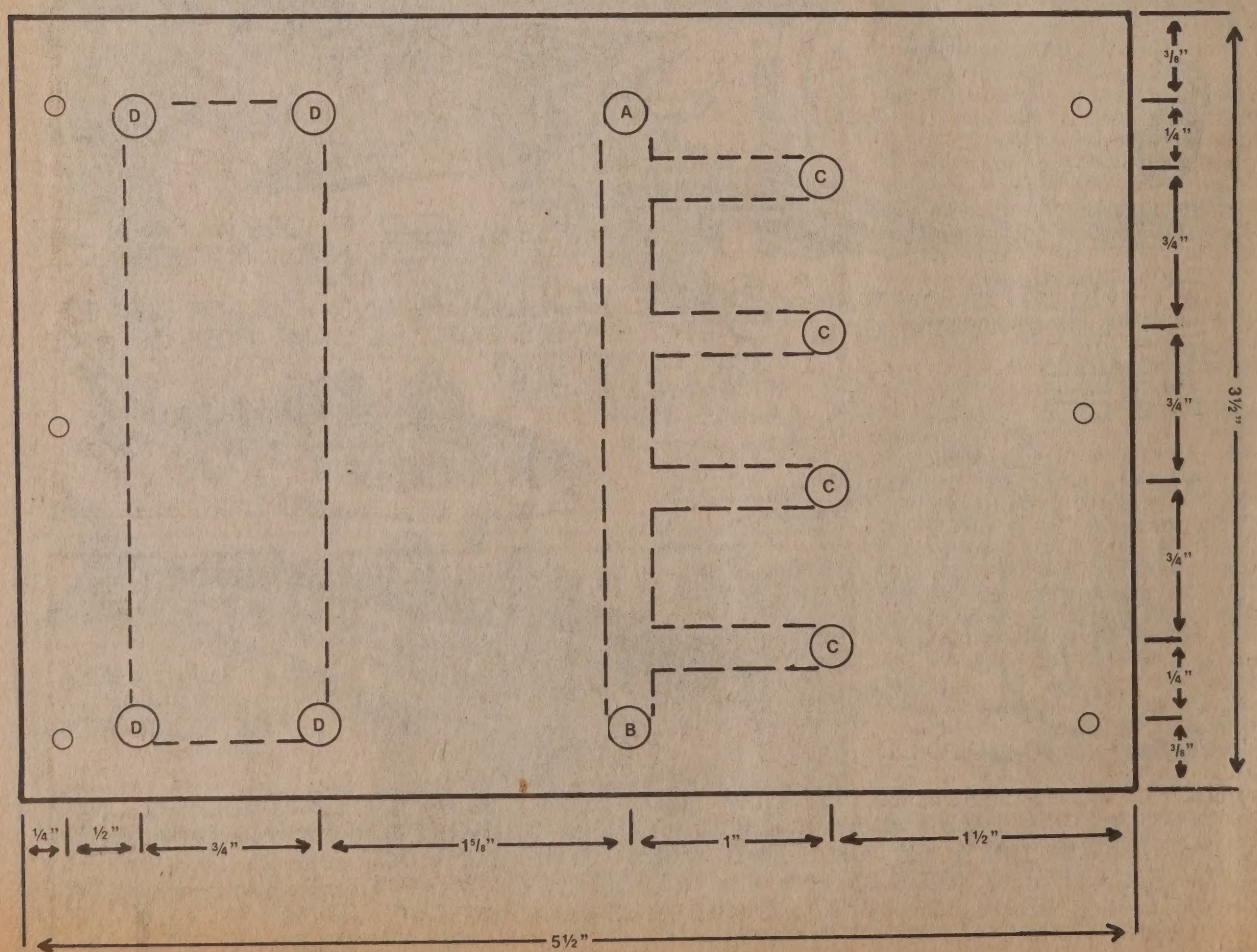
by Mike Campanelli

Just as the bucktail entered the shadow line cast by the bridge's lights, a blue flash engulfed it and was gone. Striking back I was rewarded with a neatly severed line. Grumbling something along the lines of "damn bluefish," the process of going through shirt and jacket pockets for a replacement jig began. There are a number of places I fish that I have no need for tackle box or surf bag, just a couple of bucktails or bait tails stuffed into a pocket. The problem with doing that is things have a habit of falling out and getting lost. And the hooks are always catching in the material of the pocket or even a finger.

I've tried using old cigarette boxes and an assortment of plastic boxes, but nothing seemed to work out. Everything still got tangled up. What was needed was a wallet similar to what fly fishermen used; but none on the market were made for 4/0 to 8/0 hooks.

One night while working on another project, I was about to throw out a small piece of plastic. For some reason I slipped it into my shirt pocket, as I turned to something else. "Wait a minute, do that again," my mind seemed to say. The other project suddenly took a back seat and I was off and running with an idea. Some bucktails were taken down off the

Dimensions for Bucktail Wallet



shelf and used for measurements. The drill was plugged in and a bunch of holes drilled in the plastic. By the end of the night, a crude jig wallet was finished.

To build one is quite easy and the materials and tools simple enough to use.

Materials: one 6''x4''x3/32'' thick piece of plexiglas; one 3½'' long piece of 1/2'' rubber tubing or 1'' wide Hypalon grip; a section of nylon sail material 15''x4''; 7 inches of 1/2'' wide Velcro.

Tools: Electric drill; jig saw; pop rivet gun; sewing machine or needle and thread.

Take the plastic and lay out on it the pattern copied from the paper pattern. Then drill six holes A, B, and four Cs, with a 1/4 inch drill bit. These holes should be 3/4 inches apart on center. Using a ruler, draw two lines from the outside of hole A to hole B and using the lines as a guide, cut out with a jig saw or fine bladed skill saw. Draw lines from the outside of each hole C down to the slot cut between holes A and B and cut out the four vertical slots. Taking up the drill, use a small 1/8 inch bit and drill the three holes at the top and bottom for rivets.

Take the rubber tube or Hypalon grip and split one side with a razor, turn it over and cut two notches in each end. Slip the tube into the slot between holes A and B. The plastic should fit between the slit in the bottom of the tube and the notches should bring the rest of the tube to edges. The notches will keep the tube from slipping out. The small tubing is for small bucktails and weakfish touts, the larger Hypalon tube for the 7/0 and 8/0 hooks of the larger size bucktails. Also when making the wallet for the large size jigs, four holes (D) must be drilled and the plastic removed between the holes. This is done to accommodate the larger lead heads, otherwise the wallet will be too bulky for your pocket.

Next, take the sail cloth. It should measure 15 inches long by 4 inches wide. Fold over 1/4 inches all around and sew. At one end, fold over a three inch flap and sew the two outside edges. This forms a nice little pocket for leaders. At both ends sew in a 1/2 inch by 3½ inch piece of Velcro. Along the top of the plastic, first epoxy and then rivet the two opposite pieces of Velcro. Fold the finished piece of sail cloth over the plastic so that the Velcro ends all make contact. Attach the material at the bottom with three pop rivets. To make holes in the nylon material, a heated nail will do the trick.

Once completed, just slip the bucktail's hook through the vertical slot and push the hook down over the tube. Anywhere from 4 to 8 of your favorite jigs can then be carried neatly and harmlessly in your shirt or jacket pocket.

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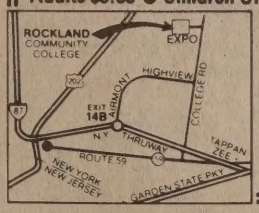

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DEVELOPING YOUR ROD BUILDING SKILLS

Part Four — by Capt. Pete & Tom Mikoleski

You should realize that although a diamond wrap is the trademark of a good, expert custom rod builder, it has absolutely nothing to do with the performance of your rod. Its function is purely decorative, but it really separates the men from the boys when it comes to craftsmanship.

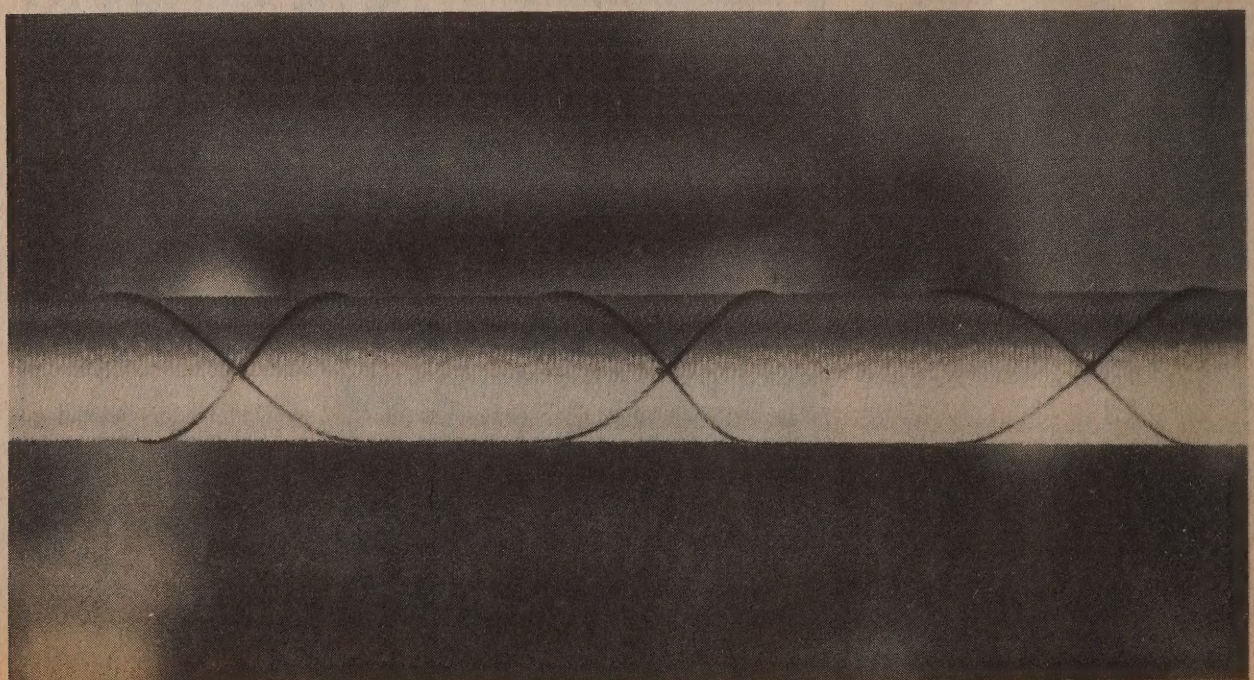
The Diamond Wrap consists of a series of threads of different colors spiraled up and down the rod blank, just above the foregrip. Depending upon how complicated you want to make the diamond wrap, anywhere from 3 to 5 colors can be incorporated into a diamond wrap. We always include the colors of the underwrap and the overwrap in the diamond wrap, sometimes using black or the same color of the grips as the third color in the wrap.

Start by underwrapping the section of the blank to be diamond wrapped with a light colored thread. We usually make our diamond wraps between 6 and 7½ inches long. This seems to be a very convenient length to work with. You can make yours longer or shorter, the choice is up to you. For simplicity's sake, we'll call this underwrap the base wrap. Directly in line with the guides and the center of the reel seat, mark the base wrap with pencil marks at even distances (about an inch apart is good) to serve as guide for crossing the first threads of the diamond wrap. Turn the rod 180 and make the same marks directly underneath the first set an inch apart. This time, though, you have to offset that series of pencil marks 1/2 inch, because you want these marks to be halfway between those on the top of the blank. Tape the first thread to the foregrip and spiral it up the rod blank and back down again, crossing at the previously marked points. Check this first thread for alignment with the guides, and make sure the Xs formed are even and straight. It is **extremely important** to get this first wrap straight, because the whole diamond wrap is based on this first thread. Do the same with another thread of the same color, to the right of the first central thread. This "X" formed by the two threads forms the diamond in the center of the wrap.

Now tape a new color thread to the foregrip and spiral it up and down the blank like before, to the right of the first two threads. Tape in place. Now take the same color thread and spiral it up and down the rod blank, this time to the left of the first two threads. Continue to wrap this color thread up and down the blank on both sides of the 2 central threads, until this band of colored thread is as wide as desired. We make this band of thread 6 to 12 threads wide on each side of 2 central threads, depending on the diameter of the blank. *Please note that these threads and all other threads must be wrapped up and down the rod on both sides of the 2 central threads for an even diamond wrap.

Tape on a new color thread, and spiral it up and down the base wrap alongside the second color as before. Continue this with the third color until this band of color is as thick as desired. The diamond wrap was formed by the crossing of the threads should begin to become apparent.

To finish the diamond wrap, begin a wrap over the base of the rod, which is identical to a guide wrap or underwrap. Once this wrap is secured by a couple of turns, cut off all the ends of the threads used to make the diamond wrap (be careful not to cut the base wrap or slit the foregrip). As in finishing a guide wrap or underwrap,



First thread of diamond wrap spiralled up and down base wrap and crossed at pencil marks spaced one inch apart.

wrap over a loop of thread or monofilament, and finish the wrap right up against the front of the fore grip. Check the now finished diamond wrap for any loose or misplaced threads and push them together with a thin but dull object. The plastic cap on a Bic pen is a good tool for this.

Color Preserving the Rod. Before you start color preserving your rod, epoxy your tiptop in place (we use the same slow drying epoxy as before) and trim with thread if desired. As we said before, we prefer to color preserve all our threads (NCP or non-NCP) to give our finishes added luster and for our own piece of mind. We highly recommend Flex Coat color preserver because it is water based, easy to clean up and doesn't have that nasty lacquer odor that most other color preservers suffer from. We always give our rods at least three coats of color preserver, waiting for each coat to dry before proceeding. While brushing on the color preserver with a small artist's paint brush, if it seems to be too thick and lumpy, try diluting it a little bit with water. Make sure to use enough color preserver to saturate all the threads, and wait till the previous coat is dry before applying another.

Finishing the Rod With Clear Epoxy. There is only one way to achieve a smooth, professional finish on your rods. That's to invest in a rod drying motor. They're really not that expensive, but they're well worth the cost. If you think the expense of a rod building jib, a rod wrapping motor and drying motor is prohibitive for the amount of rods you plan to build, why not try to buddy up with a friend interested in rod building to defray costs? Forget about rotating the rod 1/4 of a turn every 15 minutes by hand and expecting to get a quality finish. After all the time invested in the careful construction of your rod don't mess it up here by trying to get away cheap. Go for it!

Once again we're going to recommend Flex Coat Clear Epoxy Finish for your rod because Flex Coat doesn't yellow, is durable yet flexible enough to provide a top quality finish and is easily cleaned up with acetone.

Wrap some masking tape around the rod at the end of each guide wrap and at the beginning of the diamond wrap. This is to cut a clean edge around the guides and the diamond wrap with the clear finishing epoxy. Next mount the rod in the drying motor, and mix equal quantities of the epoxy as directed. We find that about 2½ cc of each, hardener and resin to be enough to cover the average rod. Mix the two parts in a little container (those little paper cups that you put your ketchup in at Wendy's are ideal, so we eat there a lot), but be sure to mix them gently. If you mix the epoxy too violently air bubbles will form and ruin your finish. When the epoxy is thoroughly but gently mixed, brush a thin coat on all of the guides, tiptop trim and diamond wrap. You should have between 20 to 30 minutes to work before the epoxy starts to get thick. It's better to err on the thin side, because you can always re-coat the rod with another light coat if necessary. Work as quickly as you can, but if your epoxy starts to thicken up or you run out, stop here and finish coating the rod later. Plug your drying motor in and after 10 or 15 minutes remove the masking tape from around the guides and diamond wrap. This should give you a nice clean edge on all your wraps. We usually put the epoxy on at night and let the rod rotate all night long, while there is less activity going on to raise dust in the room. If you notice any air bubbles forming while the epoxy is drying, prick them with the point of a pin and they should fill in before the epoxy sets. If you find some spots that you missed, or some that are uneven, remask with tape and apply another coat after the first one is dry.

After the finish coat is dry epoxy the butt cap in place if you haven't already done so and sit back and admire your own creation. If you're like everyone else you probably can't wait to use that rod.

In case you have any difficulties locating the components you want, I've listed some places that you can order just about anything you'll need through the mail. I hope you have enjoyed or will enjoy building your own rods. I tried to think of everything, but I may have inadvertently missed something. Should this be the case, or you need some other technical questions answered, feel free to contact us through The Fisherman and we'll be more than happy to help out. Also, a book I would highly recommend for the budding rod builder is "Fiberglass Rod Making," by Dale Clemens. It is available through The Fisherman Library.

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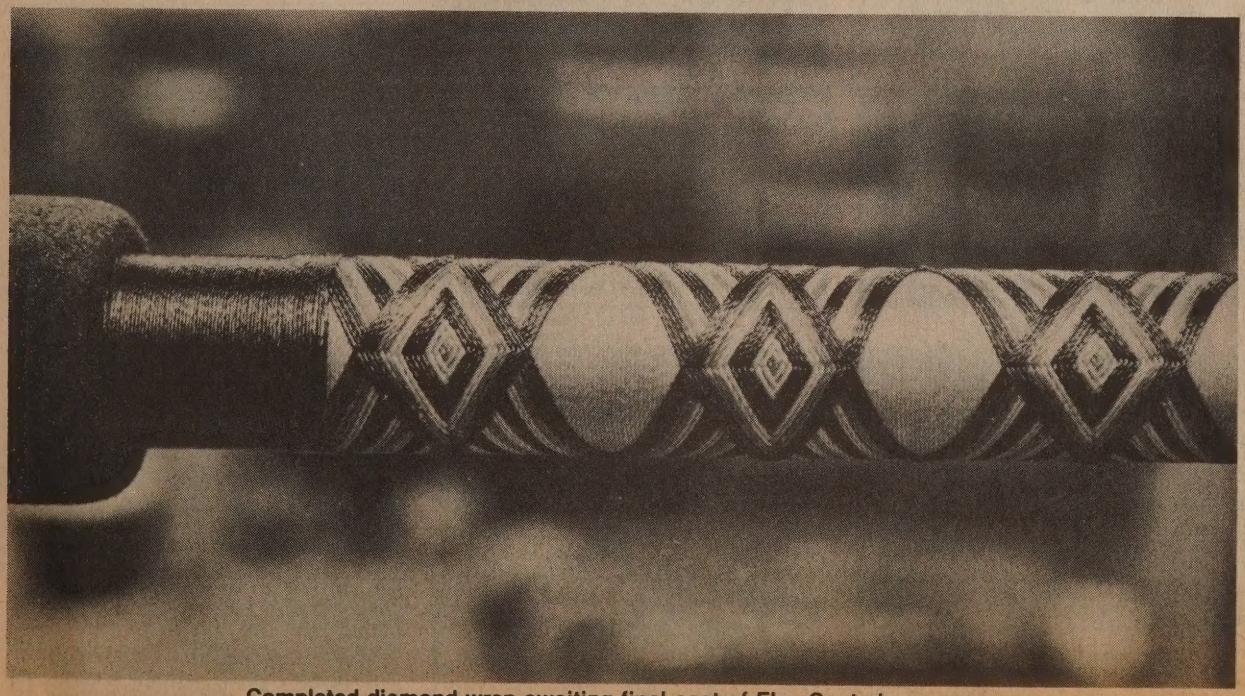

Completed diamond wrap awaiting final coat of Flex Coat clear epoxy.

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East End REPORT

with Mrs. Lorry Mangan

The fishing scene remains quiet at this end of the Island although the Viking Starship did make its maiden voyage of the '86 season on Sunday. Upcoming weeks should see a steady increase in the number of anglers making the trek east.

MONTAUK

Though scheduled to make its first trip of the season on Saturday, Friday night's snow resulted in the trip being made on Sunday. Reports from the **Viking Fleet** indicated a slow to fair pick of fish with high hook for the day putting way 5 cod. The Starship will be sailing 5AM on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Carl Darenberg, Jr., speaking from **Montauk Marine Basin** reported that setliners are accounting for most of the activity at the Point right now. On Friday, the 'Breakaway' returned with between 400 and 500 pounds of setlined cod. Carl guessed that most of the commercial guys have been working in the vicinity of Block Island. He also noted an excellent response to the Marine Basin's Monster Marlin Tournament scheduled for September. There is still time to get involved in this prestigious event. For more information, call 516-668-5900.

South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

A couple of unlikely species continue to headline the reports from this area. Codfishing remains disappointingly poor and its still a bit early for flounder to make their move. Instead, trout continue to provide a break for winter weary anglers and while white perch fishing has been very erratic,there have been some fair catches made in the Connetquot River. Also worth noting, for surfmen struck with severe bouts of cabin fever, good numbers of small stripers are for the taking at the Lilco power plant outflow in Northport. This is all catch and release fishing as nearly all of the fish are shorts and the season is of-

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ficially closed. Some good sized white perch are also being taken from the outflow.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Joey Modica of **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue** reported that they should have worms, both blood and sand, in stock for this weekend. Joey continues to hear of anglers picking away at some nice sized fish from the banks of the Quogue Canal. They have clams and clam chum in stock as well. The renovations are just about complete and much of their expanded inventory is now on display so stop by and say hello. On the freshwater scene, reports of lots of trout in Bubbles Falls with many small fish but some nice 12 to 18 inch fish mixed in as well.

Over at **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale**, Al Colban said that despite the many small trout in Bubbles and Rattlesnake Creek, lots of nice fish from 12 to 16 inches are being taken as well. He has also heard talk of a couple of fish in the 4 pound class taken this past week. Ernest Schmierer used a garden hackle to take a 3 pound rainbow from Rattlesnake Creek on Saturday. Reports of good fishing in the park continue to filter in with quality fish the rule. Tommy Pierce, an Oakdale youngster, checked in with 6 nice white perch, 4 tommy cod, 1 flounder and 1 trout, all taken on worms in the tidal reaches of the Connetquot. A few flounder being culled from the banks in the Quogue Canal. One customer reported taking 14 flatties there on Saturday afternoon.

Gil Bergen, Superintendent of Connetquot River State Park, reported that the park continues to be a busy

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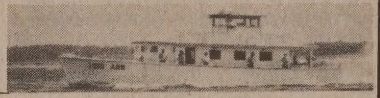

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place as many anglers are taking advantage of the early season opening. Most have been enjoying a good pick of holdover rainbows and browns along with the usual compliment of brookies. Many of the browns are in the 1½ to 2 pound class and best results are being had by anglers using weighed nymphs and sinking tip lines.

Over at **Captree**, codfishing remains a tough proposition with those fish that are being taken being found on the wrecks. Weather has added to an already difficult situation with none of the boats able to get out on Saturday. On Sunday, Capt. George Tweedy's **Capt. Scotty 3** managed 13 cod for 18 fares. The pool winning fish was around the 20 pound mark. The **Speedy VI** managed a similar catch on Sunday as well.

Tom Healy at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** in **Babylon** reported a real quiet week with a lot of anglers suffering severe symptoms of cabin fever. Unfortunately, few have been able to do anything to alleviate their plight. No one has been able to pin down any white perch in the local creeks and flounder news was non-existant. Look for the flatfishing action in the bay to begin heating up the first week of March. Some customers have been heading east to take advantage of the good trout fishing in the Connetquot.

West End REPORT

with Stu Miller

If possible, the codfishing this past week has been even slower than the two weeks preceding it. While fish are being caught to a limited extent on both wrecks and open bottom, the fish apparently are so spread out that daily catches are very light on both private and head boats. Blackfishing to the west out of Sheepshead Bay

Arlene Petterson, Clem Reseska, Tom Bowman and Janet Bowman with a 110 lb. mako caught at Montauk aboard the charter boat, "Barracuda."

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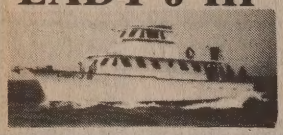

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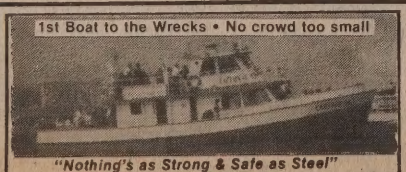

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High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . –0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	4:25	5:00	5:25	5:40	5:15	5:45	6:05	6:45	8:30	9:10	7:55	8:25	4:30	4:55	2/20
FRI.	5:20	5:50	6:15	6:30	6:05	6:35	6:55	7:30	9:10	9:45	8:40	9:10	5:20	5:40	2/21
SAT.	6:05	6:35	7:00	7:15	6:50	7:15	7:35	8:10	9:40	10:15	9:25	9:55	6:05	6:25	2/22
SUN.	6:50	7:15	7:40	7:55	7:30	7:55	8:15	8:45	10:15	10:40	10:10	10:35	6:45	7:05	2/23
MON.	7:30	7:55	8:20	8:35	8:10	8:30	9:00	9:25	10:45	11:10	10:50	11:15	7:30	7:50	2/24
TUES.	8:10	8:40	9:00	9:20	8:45	9:10	9:40	10:05	11:25	11:50	11:35	11:55	8:10	8:30	2/25
WED.	8:50	9:20	9:40	10:00	9:25	9:50	10:20	10:50	—	12:10	—	12:15	8:50	9:15	2/26
THURS.	9:35	10:05	10:25	10:45	10:10	10:40	11:10	11:30	12:30	12:55	12:35	1:00	9:35	10:00	2/27

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehobeth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+4:03
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	–0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point, north side	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	–0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rochelle	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	–1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 2/20	6:49	5:39
FRI. 2/21	6:47	5:41
SAT. 2/22	6:45	5:42
SUN. 2/23	6:44	5:43
MON. 2/24	6:43	5:44
TUE. 2/25	6:42	5:45
WED. 2/26	6:41	5:46

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 2/20	1:17PM	4:30AM
FRI. 2/21	2:20PM	5:17AM
SAT. 2/22	3:29PM	5:56AM
SUN. 2/23	4:40PM	6:29AM
MON. 2/24	5:51PM	6:58AM
TUE. 2/25	7:03PM	7:23AM
WED. 2/26	10:15PM	7:47AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
2/9	2/16	2/24	3/3

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	1:25	7:30	1:40	8:00
Fri.	2:15	8:20	2:30	8:50
Sat.	3:05	9:10	3:20	9:35
Sun.	3:50	10:00	4:10	10:25
Mon.	4:40	10:45	4:55	11:10
Tues.	5:25	11:35	5:45	11:55
Wed.	6:10	—	6:45	12:30
Thurs.	7:05	12:55	7:35	1:20

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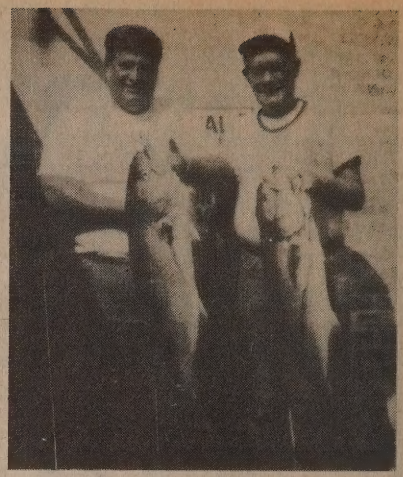

Phil Beck and Artie Klepper with blues of 19.6 and 18.6 lbs. respectively, taken in Huntington Harbor. Both were weighed at Four Winds Bait and Tackle in Huntington.

continues good, with fish on the large side.

WEST END BAYS/ JONES INLET

According to Mike at **Causeway Bait and Tackle** in Wantagh, a few teen sized codfish were taken on a couple of private boats working five miles southwest of Jones in sixty feet of water on open bottom. Fishing was done at anchor, catching on clams with plenty of chum being dunked.

We learned this morning that Gary Smith, of **Garan's Tackle** has just been named grand prize winner of a "Name the Sweepstake Contest," held by Fishing Tackle Retailer, a trade publication. Congratulations, Gary, and don't forget to split it with your brother.

Out of Freeport, Captain Richie Kessinger's **Starstream II** got out two days this week. Saturday saw twelve cod taken up to 25 pounds and four cod on Sunday. Fish averaged six to ten pounds and hit clam baits. Fish were picked on both wrecks and open bottom.

NEW YORK BIGHT

The Wee Willie report out of **Mike's Tackle** in Sheepshead Bay, directly across from the fleet advised that the main action out of his port has been blackfish this week which are running big on the Jersey side, fish averaging six to eight pounds and being taken on green crab. The three boats blackfishing also took an incidental catch of ten cod running up to twenty-eight pounds. This was all at 17 Fathoms. Whiting and ling catches have been slow, the Wee one advised.

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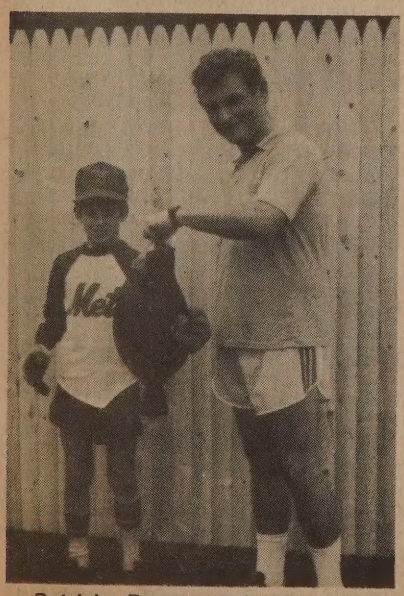

Patrick Burns and his dad George with the youngster's first ever fluke, a 4½ lber. Subscriber photo.

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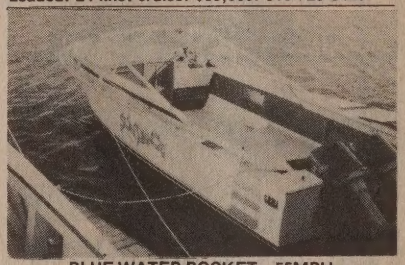

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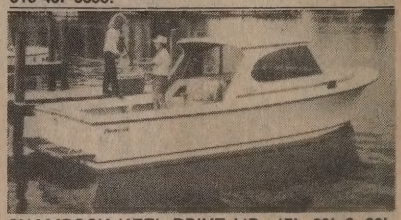

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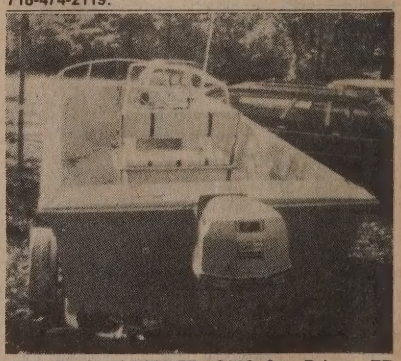

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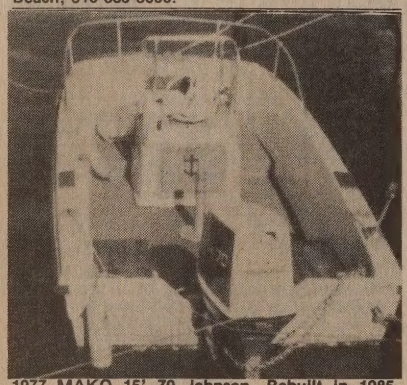

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Continued On Next Page

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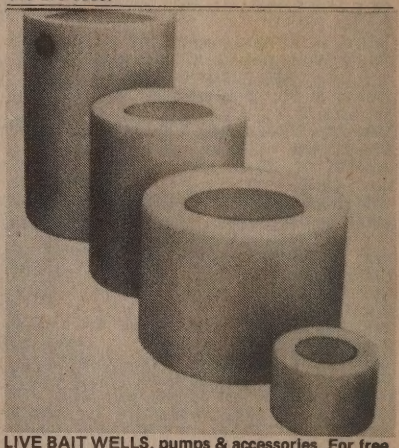

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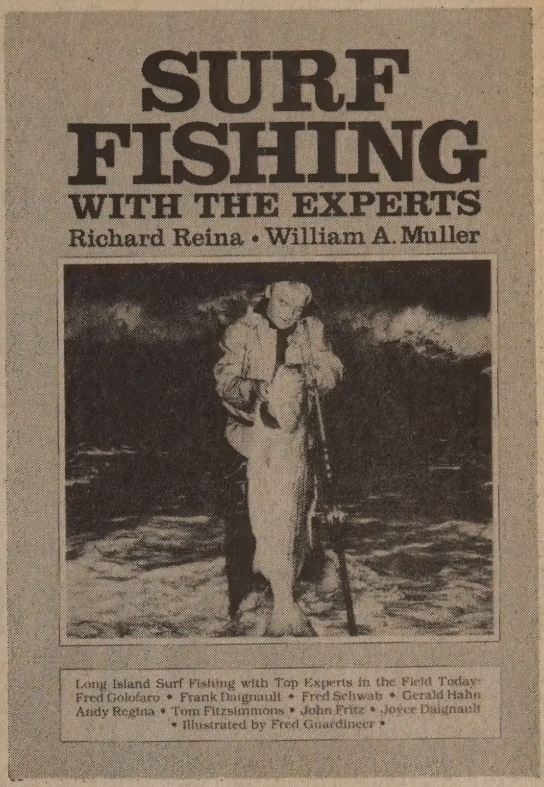
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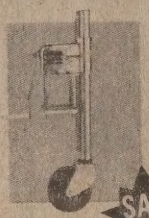

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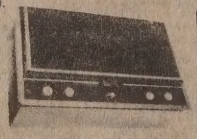

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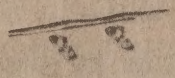

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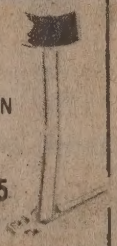

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